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No. 9

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCGOVERN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 22, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES P. MCGOVERN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) for 2 minutes.

PROTECT AMERICA

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a matter of great urgency. In just a few short days, the legislation that permits our intelligence community to monitor terrorist communications will expire. This law, known as the Protect America Act, is a vital tool used by American agents to quickly intercept and act upon electronic communications between foreign terrorists.

Just last summer, we passed this law because Congress recognized that the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 was not designed to govern the surveillance of modern telecommuni-

cations, the same electronic communications that groups like al Qaeda are using to plan attacks against U.S. citizens. I, for one, still believe that intelligence analysts shouldn't need to consult with lawyers every time a suspected terrorist buys a new disposable cell phone. But unless we act before February 1, that is exactly the kind of legal delay that our intelligence agents will face.

So let's abandon the partisan rhetoric and enact a long-term reauthorization of this important law, and let's do so without adding new bureaucratic hurdles or exposing private communication companies to unjustified lawsuits. Our men and women on the front lines deserve every tool we can give them to intercept and interrupt terrorist plots. The American people count on them to keep us safe. Let's pass this law.

PAYROLL TAX HOLIDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized during morning-hour debate for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFazio. The Bush administration presided over the creation of the housing bubble and the underlying exotic financial instruments with their typical "hands off" regulatory approach. Now it has exploded, and some in the administration are recognizing that the economy is in trouble, something that middle-income America and average Americans have known for quite some time.

Finally, the President and his appointees are talking about some stimulus. But they are drawing a line. They are saying yes, we will do some stimulus, but we will not invest in America. There will be no infrastructure investment. They are saying that would be bad. So far, there's no indication either that they intend to bring any regulatory discipline to the bizarre, exotic, over-leveraged, and opaque financial

markets, something that also cries out to be done.

Stimulus, yes. I believe we can reach agreement on that. It needs to be targeted toward those who have been hurt the worst: Middle-income and working families. The best way to do that, the most progressive way to do that would be through a payroll tax holiday. Nearly half of the people in this country pay more in payroll taxes than they do Federal income taxes. It's a flat, regressive tax. Forty-four percent pay more in payroll taxes than they do income taxes. Lower income Americans, seniors in particular, who work part-time jobs to augment their retirement Social Security, pay no taxes, and would not get any rebates under the President's plan. They need help too. They are struggling with higher costs of medical care, fuel, and heating like everybody else in this country.

So a payroll tax holiday would be the fairest way to get money to the people who need it the most, who would be most likely to spend the money, and provide some short-term stimulus to the economy. That is short-term. But long-term we need to reinvest in America, and it is strange the President draws a line in the sand there. It is not so strange, I guess, since the Secretary of Transportation last week, Mary Peters, recommended phasing out any Federal role, any Federal investment in our roads, bridges, highways, and transportation systems in this country. She said the financial markets will take care of that, they will lend us the money, the same financial markets that are totally in the tank and having to go overseas now, the same big firms that are borrowing money from Saudi Arabia and other state funds in order to stay afloat because of all their speculation. No. We need investment in America.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Unemployment among construction workers is up to nearly 10 percent, and nearly a million are unemployed. If we just spent \$15 billion on ready-to-go and needed infrastructure projects in this country; roads, bridges, highways, water and sewer systems, we could put 712,000 people to work. That's 712,000 people. We could basically wipe out unemployment in the construction trades. But the President says no. He won't borrow money to invest in America, he will borrow some money to provide some short-term consumption.

Of course, part of the problem with that is those who won't just use it to pay bills, or essentials, which many will, will be buying things that aren't made in America any more. So that money is going to leak overseas to China when they buy that flat screen television with the \$600 or \$800 rebate the President is proposing.

So we need both. We need a stimulus, and that will help some if it's targeted to those most in need, but we also need a long-term reinvestment in our country. It will make us more economically efficient, it will save fuel, and it will put people to work. It's worth borrowing money to do that.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, You not only design but create. You sustain and shape what we know as reality. In Your hands as the craftsman and artist, we are instruments for a time. Fitting into the palm of Your hands we can accomplish Your will and produce what You have in mind for us. Or we can prove unfit to achieve Your purpose for the task at hand.

Almighty God, help us to see ourselves as instruments in Your hands shaping the times we live in. In addition, enable us to see every other living person as Your creative instrument as well.

Only by relating to each one as Yours can we find our true identity, work together, and truly give You glory, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MEXICAN BORDER RAIDERS HAVE STRUCK AGAIN

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, in the desert sand dunes near the western town of Yuma, Arizona, Mexican border raiders have struck again. These outlaws snuck into America driving high dollar SUVs. They were smuggling dope into America. But American lawmen were waiting for these bandits. Upon seeing the good guys, however, the drug dealers sped back toward the safe haven of complacent Mexico.

Border Agent Louis Aguilar of El Paso, Texas, cut them off and threw tire spikes into their path. But the illegal driving a fancy Humvee at a speed of 55 miles an hour ran over and killed Agent Aguilar. One witness said "the driver swerved and hit the agent on purpose." The Humvee, bandits and drugs disappeared in the dust across the border to a protected hideout in the badlands of Mexico.

Aguilar was 32, married and had two little kids. The Mexican government said it will find the killers. Yeah, right.

There is a border war going on, Madam Speaker. Agents should have the authority to prevent the infiltration of criminal bandits into our homeland by any legal means necessary. Otherwise, our Nation will continue to be at risk by these invaders.

And that's just the way it is.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, January 17, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House, House of Representatives, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER, on January 16, 2008, the Committee on Transportation and Infra-

structure met in open session to consider 17 resolutions authorizing the General Services Administration ("GSA") Capital Investment Program for Fiscal Year 2008, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 3307. The resolutions authorize leases for various Federal agencies. The Committee adopted the resolutions with a quorum present.

Enclosed are copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on January 16, 2008.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. OBERSTAR,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

LEASE—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, SAN JOSE, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 122,000 rentable square feet for the Internal Revenue Service, currently located at 55 S. Market Street, San Jose, CA, at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,270,000 for a lease term of up to 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 82,274 rentable square feet for the Department of the Treasury, currently located at 1650 65th Street, in Emeryville, CA, at a proposed total annual cost of \$2,879,590 for a lease term of up to 12 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives

prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDER SUPERVISION AGENCY—PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—PRE-TRIAL SERVICES AGENCY, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 151,300 rentable square feet for the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, and Pre-trial Services Agency, currently located at 633 Indiana Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$7,111,100 for a lease term of up to 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—COURT SERVICES AND OFFENDERS SUPERVISION AGENCY—PRE-TRIAL SERVICES AGENCY, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 4 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 79,105 rentable square feet for the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency and Pre-trial Services Agency, currently located at 300 Indiana Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,717,935 for a lease term of up to 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall

provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

AMENDED LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, DC

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized to amend lease prospectus PDC-09-WA05 to lease up to 94,435 rentable square feet for the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, currently located at 1620 L Street NW., Washington, DC, at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,438,445 for a lease term of up to 10 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends the Committee resolution of July 21, 2004, which authorized prospectus PDC-09-WA05, a lease up to 74,698 rentable square feet, at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,361,410 for a lease term of up to 10 years.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION, ST. LOUIS, MO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 524,737 rentable square feet for the National Archives and Records Administration, currently located in two government-owned buildings at the Federal Records Center at 9700 Page Boulevard in Overland, MO and one leased facility at 1319 Dielman Road in St. Louis, MO, at a proposed total annual cost of \$11,545,137 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated

area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY, NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 362,671 rentable square feet for the Department of Defense, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, currently located at 3701 North Fairfax Drive and 4301 North Fairfax Drive in Arlington, VA, at a proposed total annual cost of \$14,506,840 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, CRYSTAL GATEWAY NORTH, NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 133,292 rentable square feet for the Department of Defense, currently located at Crystal Gateway North, 1111 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA, at a proposed total annual cost of \$4,665,220 for a lease term of up to three years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not

be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 275,135 rentable square feet for the Environmental Protection Agency, currently located at 75 Hawthorne Street in San Francisco, CA, at a proposed total annual cost of \$13,756,750 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 215,459 rentable square feet for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, currently located in the federally owned Phillip Burton Federal Building in San Francisco and a leased facility at 4703 Tidewater Avenue in Oakland, CA, at a proposed total annual cost of \$13,142,999 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

AMENDED LEASE—DRUG ENFORCEMENT
ADMINISTRATION, MIAMI, FL

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 58,811 rentable square feet for the Drug Enforcement Administration, currently located in the Columbus Building, 5205 NW 84th Avenue, Miami, FL, at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,881,527 for a lease term of up to 20 years, which is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends the Committee resolution of February 25, 2004, which authorized prospectus PFL-02-MI04, a lease of up to 58,811 rentable square feet, at a proposed annual cost of \$3,116,983 for a lease term of up to 15 years.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION,
ATLANTA, GA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 101,528 rentable square feet for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, currently located in the Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center and Richard B. Russell FB-CT in Atlanta, GA, at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,959,592 for a lease term of up to 15 years, a prospectus which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall

provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION,
BURLINGTON, MA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 92,000 rentable square feet for the Federal Aviation Administration, currently located in two buildings in the New England Executive Park Burlington, MA, at a proposed total annual cost of \$3,956,000 for a lease term of up to 10 years, a prospectus which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

AMENDED LEASE—FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, FREDERICK COUNTY, VA AND
BERKELEY COUNTY, WV

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 626,488 rentable square feet for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, currently located at the Central Records Complex, in Frederick County, VA, at a proposed total annual cost of \$27,565,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, which is attached to and included in this resolution. This resolution amends a July 19, 2006 Committee resolution that authorized a lease up to 947,000 rentable square feet, at a proposed total annual cost of \$33,145,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years. The Committee resolution of July 19, 2006, amended an October 26, 2005 Committee resolution which authorized a lease up to 947,000 rentable square feet, at a proposed total annual cost of \$33,145,000 for a lease term of 15 years.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the

procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY—NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION, KANSAS CITY, MO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized to lease up to 1,552,500 rentable square feet for the Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration currently located at the Bannister Federal Complex in Kansas City, MO, at a proposed total annual cost of \$58,995,000 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator of General Services shall require that the procurement includes minimum performance requirements requiring energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, *except that*, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

ALTERATIONS IN LEASED SPACE, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, SAN DIEGO, CA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to title 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the alteration of leased space at 4181 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA, for the Federal Bureau of Investigation centralized Intelligence and Counter Terrorism Fusion Center, at design costs of \$300,000, and estimated construction costs of \$2,936,000, for an estimated project cost of \$3,236,000, a prospectus which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable and considering life-cycle costs appropriate for the geographic area, the General Services Administration ("GSA") shall use energy efficient and renewable energy systems, including photovoltaic systems, in carrying out the project.

Provided further, that, within 180 days of approval of this resolution, GSA shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the U.S. Senate a report on the planned use of energy efficient

and renewable energy systems, including photovoltaic systems, for such project and, if such systems are not used for the project, the specific rationale for GSA's decision.

Provided further, that, beginning on the date of approval of this resolution, each alteration, design, or construction prospectus submitted by GSA shall include an estimate of the future energy performance of the building and a specific description of the use of energy efficient and renewable energy systems, including photovoltaic systems, in carrying out the project.

ALTERATIONS IN LEASED SPACE, BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC DEBT, MINERAL WELLS, WV

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for the installation of a backup generator and uninterruptible power supply at the Bureau of the Public Debt's Contingency and Alternate Processing Site facility located in Mineral Wells, WV, at design costs of \$50,000, management and inspection costs of \$68,000 and estimated construction costs of \$1,737,000, for an estimated project cost of \$1,855,000, a prospectus for which is attached to, and included in, this resolution.

Provided, that, to the maximum extent practicable and considering life-cycle costs appropriate for the geographic area, the General Services Administration ("GSA") shall use energy efficient and renewable energy systems, including photovoltaic systems, in carrying out the project.

Provided further, that, within 180 days of approval of this resolution, GSA shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the U.S. Senate a report on the planned use of energy efficient and renewable energy systems, including photovoltaic systems, for such project and, if such systems are not used for the project, the specific rationale for GSA's decision.

Provided further, that, beginning on the date of approval of this resolution, each alteration, design, or construction prospectus submitted by GSA shall include an estimate of the future energy performance of the building and a specific description of the use of energy efficient and renewable energy systems, including photovoltaic systems, in carrying out the project.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

MASTER SERGEANT KENNETH N. MACK POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3988) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3107 Altamesa Boulevard in Fort Worth, Texas, as the "Master Sergeant Kenneth N. Mack Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3988

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MASTER SERGEANT KENNETH N. MACK POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3701 Altamesa Boulevard in Fort Worth, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Master Sergeant Kenneth N. Mack Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Master Sergeant Kenneth N. Mack Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 3988, which names the postal facility in Fort Worth, Texas, after Master Sergeant Kenneth N. Mack.

H.R. 3988, which was introduced by Representative KAY GRANGER of Texas on October 29, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on December 12, 2007, by voice vote. This measure, which has been cosponsored by 31 Members, has the support of the entire Texas congressional delegation.

Master Sergeant Mack was both a U.S. Marine and a postal employee for over 20 years before being killed in Iraq on February 5 during combat operations.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague and to urge the swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today we honor the life of Marine Corps Master Sergeant Kenneth Mack, a soldier who strongly believed in the fight for freedom and was a true American hero.

In 1982, shortly after graduating from Southwest High School, Master Sergeant Mack joined the Marines, where he served honorably for 23 years. Master Sergeant Mack was a Postal Service mechanic and Master Sergeant in the Marine Reserve assigned to the

Second Marine Expeditionary Force out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

In March of last year, this dedicated soldier was called to duty in Iraq for the second time and once again had to leave his family to serve his country. On the morning of May 5th of that year, a roadside bomb struck Master Sergeant Mack's vehicle in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. In a flash, an outstanding 23-year Marine Corps career was over and he was killed.

A passionate family man, Sergeant Mack's wife remembers him as a person who put his family first and made sure the family participated in many activities together. His primary goal in life was to be a mentor for his children and to all children, according to his wife. He leaves behind his wife, mother and two children. I might just add, obviously he put his country first, too.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of his service to his community and country as a Postal Service mechanic and Marine, we feel it is fitting to name the postal facility located at 3701 Altamesa Boulevard in Fort Worth, Texas, in honor of Master Sergeant Kenneth Mack.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I want to take note of the fact that this was probably a member of the Reserve or National Guard, because for over 20 years he had been a member of the Postal Service, which also comes under the jurisdiction of this committee.

I think it bears underlining how much of the armed services of the United States today is made up of the post office, civil servants, first responders, often needed at home, but always willing to go where their country needs them. I find this a particularly deserving measure and urge passage of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3988.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ARMY PFC JUAN ALONSO COVARRUBIAS POST OFFICE BUILDING

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3720) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 Clay Avenue in Waco, Texas, as the "Army PFC Juan Alonso Covarrubias Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3720

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ARMY PFC JUAN ALONSO COVARRUBIAS POST OFFICE BUILD- ING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 Clay Avenue in Waco, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Army PFC Juan Alonso Covarrubias Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Army PFC Juan Alonso Covarrubias Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 3720, which names the postal facility in Waco, Texas, after Army PFC Juan Alonso Covarrubias.

H.R. 3720, which was introduced by Representative CHET EDWARDS on October 7, 2007, was reported from the Oversight Committee on December 12, 2007, by voice vote. This measure has been cosponsored by 31 Members and has the support of the entire Texas delegation.

The bill is named after a servicemember who served and died as an airborne paratrooper in the Vietnam war in 1969. As a member of the Army Selective Service, he served in Thua Thien, South Vietnam. Through his efforts and sacrifice, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Bronze Star Medal. His name appears on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC. I urge swift passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, on April 19, 1948, an American hero was born. His name was Juan Alonso Covarrubias. He was raised in Waco, Texas, but moved to Dallas, where he was drafted in 1968 into the United States Army. At the age of 20, he served courageously in Vietnam as an airborne paratrooper. It was there on April 24, 1969, in the Thua Thien Province, where he tragically lost his life while defending his country.

Army Private First Class Covarrubias was buried with full military honors on April 4, 1969. Among his awards and decorations for his remarkable achievements are the Bronze Star

Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Expert Badge and Rifle Bar, Marksman Badge with Auto Rifle Bar, Sharpshooter Badge and Machine Gun Bar.

□ 1415

His service has also been acknowledged at the Waco Vietnam Veterans Memorial and on the veterans wall in Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, let us recognize the courageous service and ultimate sacrifice of Army Private First Class Juan Alonso Covarrubias by renaming the post office located at 424 Clay Avenue in Waco, Texas, in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may require to the Member from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) who sponsored this resolution.

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, let me first thank my colleagues for joining with me in honoring this great American. I rise today in support of H.R. 3720, which salutes the service and sacrifice of Army Private First Class Juan Alonso Covarrubias by naming a U.S. Post Office in Waco, Texas, my hometown, in his honor.

For generations to come, citizens in Waco will be reminded that Mr. Covarrubias in the prime of his life in 1969, in the words of Lincoln, gave his "last full measure of devotion" to country.

In doing so, Mr. Covarrubias joined the hallowed hall of heroes who, throughout our Nation's history, have given their lives and duty to country. Juan Alonso Covarrubias was born on April 19, 1948. He was raised in Waco and, as mentioned, later moved to Dallas. In 1968, he answered his country's call to duty. He served in the Army's famed 101st Airborne Division and arrived in Vietnam on November 28, 1968, as a young 20-year-old airborne paratrooper.

On March 24, 1969, just 1 month after the birth of his daughter, Tammy, this young father gave his life so very far from home. It is that type of incredible sacrifice that should remind us all that we are the land of the free, because we are still the home of the brave.

With full military honors, Mr. Covarrubias was buried in Waco on Good Friday in 1969. While his final resting place may be there at Waco Memorial Park, I have faith that his spirit will touch the lives of others who will be inspired by this young man's love of country.

Mr. Covarrubias is honored at the Waco Vietnam Veterans Memorial and on the Veterans Wall in Washington D.C. He earned the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, Expert Badge with Rifle Bar, Marksman Badge with Auto Rifle Bar, and the Sharpshooter Badge with Machine Gun Bar.

Upon the passage of this bill into law, thousands of Waco citizens who visit the U.S. Post Office at 424 Clay Avenue, just blocks away from the Waco VA regional office, will be touched by the life and sacrifice of the young man raised in their neighborhood.

It is my hope that Hispanic Americans, who have time and again served our Nation in combat with distinction, will take special pride in knowing that Private First Class Covarrubias will forever stand as a symbol of all Hispanics who so patriotically served America in uniform.

I especially want to thank my friend, a Vietnam veteran and a great veterans leader, Robert Gamboa, for working on this legislation to ensure that Mr. Covarrubias's service would never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, I believe the families and loved ones of our servicemen and women are truly the unsung heroes and heroines in our Nation's defense. That is why I want to express my respect to the family of Mr. Covarrubias, his 97-year-old father, Juan Covarrubias; his brother, Gilbert; his sister, Irene Covarrubias Ramirez; and his daughter, Tammy Covarrubias Boyett.

I would also like to say to the Covarrubias family, which sacrificed so much for the American family, that a grateful Nation owes you a great, deep debt of gratitude.

I would like to say to Tammy that while you never got to know your father in person, I hope you will always be proud that he loved you so much that he was willing to sacrifice his life for the country in which his little girl would be raised. Surely he must look down upon you now from a special place in heaven reserved for those who would lay down their lives for their neighbors.

To Private Covarrubias's father, I would say, myself, as the father of two young sons, that no father should ever have to see his own son buried. But I hope you take comfort and pride in knowing that the spirit of your son that you helped bring into this world will be touching and inspiring the lives of others long after we are gone.

Juan Alonso Covarrubias is an American hero who gave his life in defending our country in Vietnam. We humbly recognize that we could never fully repay him or his family and loved ones for their loss. But I hope and pray that honoring him in this way will celebrate his dedicated service and preserve his memory.

Madam Speaker, with honor and respect for the life of Juan Alonso Covarrubias, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3720.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3720.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE PERSONS, GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES THAT ARE IMPOVERISHED, DISADVANTAGED OR OTHERWISE IN POVERTY

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 198) expressing the sense of Congress that the United States has a moral responsibility to meet the needs of those persons, groups and communities that are impoverished, disadvantaged or otherwise in poverty, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 198

Whereas poverty can be seen as a deep, structural problem that implicates our value system and our educational and economic institutions;

Whereas poverty may be defined as the lack of basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, clothing, health care, education, security, and opportunity;

Whereas policy initiatives addressing poverty have not kept pace with the needs of millions of Americans;

Whereas many experts believe that the lack of an equitable distribution of housing choices across the country leads to isolation and concentrated poverty;

Whereas the number of Americans living in poverty has risen by over 5,000,000 since 2000;

Whereas there were 37 million Americans living in poverty in 2005;

Whereas the official poverty rate in 2005 was 12.6 percent;

Whereas 24.9 percent of African Americans, 21.8 percent of Hispanics, 25.3 percent of Native Americans, 10.9 percent of Asian Americans, and 8.3 percent of Whites lived in poverty in the United States in 2005;

Whereas in 2005 a family of 4 was considered poor under the U.S. Census Bureau's official measure if the family's income was below \$19,971;

Whereas the poverty rate for children 18 years and younger (17.6 percent) remained higher than that of 18-24 year-olds (11.1 percent) and that of people 65 and older (10.1 percent) in 2005; and

Whereas the number in poverty increased for people 65 and older by almost 400,000 since 2000: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the United States should set a national goal of cutting poverty in half over the next 10 years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H. Con. Res. 198, as amended, which expresses the sense of Congress that the United States has a moral responsibility to meet the needs of those persons, groups and communities that are impoverished, disadvantaged or otherwise in poverty.

H. Con. Res. 198 was introduced by Representative BARBARA LEE on August 1, 2007, and was amended and reported from the Oversight Committee on December 12 by a voice vote. The measure has the support and sponsorship of 80 Members of Congress and reminds each of us of the important role we play in the battle against poverty.

Madam Speaker, I want to continue with certain of my remarks in the RECORD, but I would like to make other remarks at this time.

We have just come from the celebration of the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr. His signature issues, of course, were war and peace and poverty, falling only behind civil rights. It's clear that he achieved what he desired, certainly much of what we desired, because during the 1960s there were three seminal civil rights bills passed, long-time goals of African Americans, other people of color, and many in this Chamber.

But two of King's goals remain completely without remedy. One, of course, is war and peace, and you can imagine where he would have been on the war in Iraq. But perhaps, most telling, is that we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday at a time when the gap between rich and poor is considerably wider than when King died.

Therefore, I am not sure whether the gentlewoman from California had in mind that we would bring this bill up right after Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, but there it is, and that makes it all the more timely.

As it turns out, though, Madam Speaker, the state of the economy has rendered this issue high on the national agenda for the first time in many years. For the first time, the entire Congress will be looking or should be looking at those who have the least in our society and why. I am afraid it's not because of their high priority. They are the lowest voting group. They sometimes are invisible. But the fact is that economists across the board have said that we need to enact a stimulus package yesterday, and that in order for it to have any effect, and, in fact, not be effective when it might do more harm than good, we need to get the stimulus package in the pockets of people who can spend the money immediately.

Therefore, many of us think that the people we know who will spend the money tomorrow are the people who have no money to spend. The people who run out of food stamps in the middle of the month. The people who have run out of unemployment security. The people who need the most but who have the lowest profile often in the Congress now have assumed importance because of the state of the economy.

Madam Speaker, what is most distressing was to see that the poverty rate increased even for people 65 and over by almost 400,000 people. The one group of people that, in fact, gets some attention in the Congress, of course, are the elderly. They are the highest percentage of voting people; yet, their poverty rate is going up. That is very distressing since they are on fixed incomes and are least able to do something about it. They don't get unemployment insurance, many of them don't.

I am particularly concerned about the people who don't show up on the tax rolls. Many, if not most of them, pay payroll taxes. The only way to focus on them is to focus on them who needs, who will spend the money first should get the money first.

My concern about the baby boomers, those over 65, is not only that they should be in this group. I know they will spend the money instantly. But my concern is to wonder whether or not this is a harbinger of the baby boomers, the first baby boomers have just come forward, whether we are about to see that huge group of people show up, bringing increased pressure on the economy.

So I compliment the gentlelady from California for coming forward with a bill that I am sure will have bipartisan support.

In the District of Columbia, I have to tell her that we are not a poor city. We are second per capita in Federal income taxes and, therefore, a lot of middle-class and rich people in the District of Columbia, but one of every three children in the District of Columbia lives in poverty.

I want to make sure that whatever we do to stimulate the economy or to pay attention to this resolution hits those children very quickly. We have 10 percent of District residents living in extreme poverty, even though the District cannot be counted among those cities which have lost so much, many of them lost a base, because we have the Federal Government here, because even our real estate industry continues to boom.

□ 1430

Madam Speaker, I think this timely resolution is important not only for its own sake, but because it draws our attention to what I believe will be a first priority for the Congress this session, especially today as our congressional leadership on both sides of the aisle are meeting with the President of the United States on the very stimulus package that I have described.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of H. Con. Res. 198 which expresses the sense of Congress that we have a moral responsibility as a Nation to meet the needs of those persons, groups and communities that are impoverished, disadvantaged or otherwise in poverty.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting that a day after the celebration of the life and achievement of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., we are taking up a resolution that addresses our obligation to help many of those that Dr. King had particular concern for, the downtrodden, the underserved and the impoverished.

I believe we all seek, as Dr. King did, to create a just society and to alleviate poverty and its attendant suffering. We may differ on methods, we may differ on who and how and how many, but broad prosperity for all is, I believe, the goal of virtually everyone who graces this Chamber.

This resolution seeks to bring attention to poverty and the responsibility we have as citizens of this Nation and this world to help relieve the suffering of others. This responsibility does not fall only to the Federal Government, but it will be solved only through the collective efforts of not just governments at every level, but charities, businesses and individuals.

We are told the poor will always be among us, but that does not relieve us of the challenge of trying to alleviate the suffering, tend to their needs, and improve to the extent we can their lot in life.

I commend our colleague, Representative LEE, for reminding us of this, and I, too, think it is a wonderful coincidence, that we are taking this resolution on the day we have all come back from celebrations recognizing that the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. didn't lead a rebellion, which is a failed revolution, he led a revolution. And he spoke to this young person, me, in the 1950s when I saw Little Rock with military forces and I wondered as a child what was happening to my country. Reverend King helped guide all of us in a direction that has done so much to address many of the concerns he championed. His dream is not dead, it is still alive and it is a dream that we need to carry into the future.

It wasn't a mindless dream, it was a dream based on the promise of America. He spoke to our better nature and lifted all of us. He spoke to the oppressor and to the oppressed, those with much and those with very little, and those with nothing.

Reverend King belongs to all of us. We have a duty, as I think my colleague Representative LEE will point out. We have a duty and obligation and a wonderful opportunity to heed his call to action.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may desire to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) who authored the resolution.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentlelady from the District of Columbia, not only for managing this resolution today, but for your long-standing work in addressing injustice everywhere, including economic justice which goes to the heart of this resolution.

Also let me take a moment to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) for your leadership and for your support and for your commitment to eliminate poverty; to Speaker NANCY PELOSI; our majority leader, STENY HOYER; Chairman WAXMAN and Ranking Member TOM DAVIS. I want to commend them and thank them for their strong support in bringing this very important resolution forward today because I think the bipartisan support for this shows and demonstrates that we all understand very clearly this is not a Democratic or Republican issue, it is not an urban issue or rural issue, this is a moral issue that we must address together.

I would like to recognize all 83 cosponsors who have worked hard on this resolution. Your support has been critical in helping to move it forward.

Also to those who co-chair the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus with me: Congressman CONYERS, Chairman BACA, who chairs the Congressional Hispanic Caucus; Congressman HONDA, who chairs the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus; and Congressman BUTTERFIELD. Their dedication and commitment is crucial to our broader goal of ending poverty.

I would also like to thank our staff, Alexis Brandt of the majority leader's office; Bill Goold of the Congressional Progressive Caucus; Leila Gomez of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, who works in my office and has done a tremendous job on this; Tunde Eboda, who was a Brookings Fellow in my office; and Chris Lee of my staff. All of our staffs have really kept focused and worked together and have worked very hard to make sure that this resolution received the support that it has received.

Madam Speaker, the resolution before us today is really very straightforward. It simply states that Congress supports setting a national goal of cutting poverty in half over the next 10 years. It is unfortunate that in the wealthiest country in the world that we even need this resolution, but the fact is that we do.

As both the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) reminded us, yesterday we took the time out to honor what would have been Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 79th birthday, and as we reflect upon his life and his legacy and the struggle for civil and human rights, for peace and

for justice, it is important also to reflect upon how far we have strayed from his vision to eradicate poverty.

So this resolution is just one small step in honoring his legacy in more than words. It is one small legislative action we can do today to say we, too, believe that not only on his birthday but throughout the year we have a responsibility to live his legacy and do what we can do to eliminate poverty.

Our country is the land of opportunity. But the sad reality is that income inequality continues to grow and more people are falling into poverty than getting ahead. Just consider the fact that over 37 million Americans, more than the population of my home State of California, are in poverty, and the number has grown by 5 million within the last 5 to 6 years. One in eight Americans lives in poverty now. Poverty in the United States is far higher than in many other developed nations, and inequality is at an all-time high.

The richest 1 percent of Americans in 2005 held the largest share of the Nation's income since 1925; and at the same time, the poorest 20 percent held only 3.4 percent of the Nation's income.

Madam Speaker, I will include for the RECORD a document titled "From Poverty to Prosperity." It was put forth by the Center for American Progress' Task Force on Poverty.

The statistics in this report and other reports quantify what most of us already know, that we are heading in the wrong direction, and that we need a national commitment to address the growing poverty crisis in this Nation.

This resolution helps us get back on track by setting an achievable, and in my view a very modest goal, of cutting poverty in half over the next decade.

Madam Speaker, perhaps the greatest example of the profound need for action to address the poverty crisis in our Nation was Hurricane Katrina and the incredible suffering that it brought to so many, and which continues today.

The facts speak for themselves. One-third of those displaced by Hurricane Katrina had incomes below 1½ times the poverty line. The storm had its greatest impact on people of color, affecting African Americans who accounted for nearly half of those affected. The gulf coast hurricane should have been a wake-up call. Unfortunately, the administration chose only to hit the snooze button.

That is why I am glad we are here today in a bipartisan way helping to sound this alarm again. By setting our sights to tackling poverty head-on, we can take some very serious steps towards bridging the gap between the haves and the have-nots. There is much work to be done.

Last year again, this important document on the state of poverty in America made several important proposals. The Center based its recommendations on four principles: Promote decent work, promoting opportunity for all,

ensuring economic security for all, and helping people build wealth. Based on these principles, the report offers 12 key steps, including raising the minimum wage, and many of the efforts which we have been engaging in in this Congress, but much more needs to be done.

So as we consider an income stimulus plan in the next few weeks, I hope we keep these points in mind. Fighting poverty isn't a mystery, it just requires us to make a commitment to the goal and to dedicate the necessary resources to do this.

This resolution is an important step forward, and I urge my colleagues to support it and join me and my colleagues in the Out of Poverty Caucus in our efforts to eliminate poverty in America. This is a moral imperative which we must all embrace.

FROM POVERTY TO PROSPERITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thirty-seven million Americans live below the official poverty line. Millions more struggle each month to pay for basic necessities, or run out of savings when they lose their jobs or face health emergencies. Poverty imposes enormous costs on society. The lost potential of children raised in poor households, the lower productivity and earnings of poor adults, the poor health, increased crime, and broken neighborhoods all hurt our nation. Persistent childhood poverty is estimated to cost our nation \$500 billion each year, or about 4 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product. In a world of increasing global competition, we cannot afford to squander these human resources.

The Center for American Progress last year convened a diverse group of national experts and leaders to examine the causes and consequences of poverty in America and make recommendations for national action. In this report, our Task Force on Poverty calls for a national goal of cutting poverty in half in the next 10 years and proposes a strategy to reach the goal.

Our nation has seen periods of dramatic poverty reduction at times when near-full employment was combined with sound federal and state policies, motivated individual initiative, supportive civic involvement, and sustained national commitment. In the last six years, however, our nation has moved in the opposite direction. The number of poor Americans has grown by five million, while inequality has reached historic high levels.

Consider the following facts:

One in eight Americans now lives in poverty. A family of four is considered poor if the family's income is below \$19,971—a bar far below what most people believe a family needs to get by. Still, using this measure, 12.6 percent of all Americans were poor in 2005, and more than 90 million people (31 percent of all Americans) had incomes below 200 percent of federal poverty thresholds.

Millions of Americans will spend at least one year in poverty at some point in their lives. One third of all Americans will experience poverty within a 13-year period. In that period, one in 10 Americans are poor for most of the time, and one in 20 are poor for 10 or more years.

Poverty in the United States is far higher than in many other developed nations. At the turn of the 21st century, the United States ranked 24th among 25 countries when measuring the share of the population below 50 percent of median income.

Inequality has reached record highs. The richest one percent of Americans in 2005 had

the largest share of the nation's income (19 percent) since 1929. At the same time, the poorest 20 percent of Americans had only 3.4 percent of the nation's income.

It does not have to be this way. Our nation need not tolerate persistent poverty alongside great wealth.

The United States should set a national goal of cutting poverty in half over the next 10 years. A strategy to cut poverty in half should be guided by four principles:

Promote Decent Work. People should work and work should pay enough to ensure that workers and their families can avoid poverty, meet basic needs, and save for the future.

Provide Opportunity for All. Children should grow up in conditions that maximize their opportunities for success; adults should have opportunities throughout their lives to connect to work, get more education, live in a good neighborhood, and move up in the workforce.

Ensure Economic Security. Americans should not fall into poverty when they cannot work or work is unavailable, unstable, or pays so little that they cannot make ends meet.

Help People Build Wealth. All Americans should have the opportunity to build assets that allow them to weather periods of flux and volatility, and to have the resources that may be essential to advancement and upward mobility.

We recommend 12 key steps to cut poverty in half:

1. Raise and index the minimum wage to half the average hourly wage. At \$5.15, the federal minimum wage is at its lowest level in real terms since 1956. The federal minimum wage was once 50 percent of the average wage but is now 30 percent of that wage. Congress should restore the minimum wage to 50 percent of the average wage, about \$8.40 an hour in 2006. Doing so would help over 4.5 million poor workers and nearly nine million other low-income workers.

2. Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. As an earnings supplement for low-income working families, the EITC raises incomes and helps families build assets. EITC expansions during the 1990s helped increase employment and reduced poverty. But the current EITC does little to help workers without children. We recommend tripling the EITC for childless workers, and expanding help to larger working families. Doing so would cut the number of people in poverty by over two million. The Child Tax Credit provides a tax credit of up to \$1,000 per child, but provides no help to the poorest families. We recommend making it available to all low- and moderate-income families. Doing so would move two million children and one million parents out of poverty.

3. Promote unionization by enacting the Employee Free Choice Act. The Employee Free Choice Act would require employers to recognize a union after a majority of workers signs cards authorizing union representation and establish stronger penalties for violation of employee rights. The increased union representation made possible by the Act would lead to better jobs and less poverty for American workers.

4. Guarantee child care assistance to low-income families and promote early education for all. We propose that the federal and state governments guarantee child care help to families with incomes below about \$40,000 a year, and also expand the child care tax credit. At the same time, states should be encouraged to improve the quality of early education and broaden access for all children. Our child care expansion would raise employment among low-income parents and help nearly three million parents and children escape poverty.

5. Create two million new "opportunity" housing vouchers, and promote equitable development in and around central cities. Nearly 8 million Americans live in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty where at least 40 percent of residents are poor. Our nation should seek to end concentrated poverty and economic segregation, and promote regional equity and inner-city revitalization. We propose that over the next 10 years the federal government fund two million new "opportunity vouchers" designed to help people live in opportunity-rich areas. New affordable housing should be in communities with employment opportunities and high-quality public services, or in gentrifying communities. These housing policies should be part of a broader effort to pursue equitable development strategies in regional and local planning effects, including efforts to improve schools, create affordable housing, assure physical security, and enhance neighborhood amenities.

6. Connect disadvantaged and disconnected youth with school and work. About 1.7 million poor youth ages 16 to 24 were out of school and out of work in 2005. We recommend that the federal government restore Youth Opportunity Grants to help the most disadvantaged communities and expand funding for effective and promising youth programs—with the goal of reaching 600,000 poor disadvantaged youth through these efforts. We propose a new Upward Pathway program to offer low-income youth opportunities to participate in service and training in fields that are in high-demand and provide needed public services.

7. Simplify and expand Pell Grants and make higher education accessible to residents of each state.

Low-income youth are much less likely to attend college than their higher income peers, even among those of comparable abilities. Pell Grants play a crucial role for lower-income students. We propose to simplify the Pell grant application process, gradually raise Pell Grants to reach 70 percent of the average costs of attending a four-year public institution, and encourage institutions to do more to raise student completion rates. As the federal government does its part, states should develop strategies to make post-secondary education affordable for all residents, following promising models already underway in a number of states.

8. Help former prisoners find stable employment and reintegrate into their communities. The United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world. We urge all states to develop comprehensive reentry services aimed at reintegrating former prisoners into their communities with full-time, consistent employment.

9. Ensure equity for low-wage workers in the Unemployment Insurance system. Only about 35 percent of the unemployed, and a smaller share of unemployed low-wage workers, receive unemployment insurance benefits. We recommend that states (with federal help) reform "monetary eligibility" rules that screen out low-wage workers, broaden eligibility for part-time workers and workers who have lost employment as a result of compelling family circumstances, and allow unemployed workers to use periods of unemployment as a time to upgrade their skills and qualifications.

10. Modernize means-tested benefits programs to develop a coordinated system that helps workers and families. A well-functioning safety net should help people get into or return to work and ensure a decent level of living for those who cannot work or are temporarily between jobs. Our current system fails to do so. We recommend that governments at all levels simplify and improve benefits access for working families

and improve services to individuals with disabilities. The Food Stamp Program should be strengthened to improve benefits, eligibility, and access. And the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program should be reformed to shift its focus from cutting caseloads to helping needy families find sustainable employment.

11. Reduce the high costs of being poor and increase access to financial services. Despite having less income, lower-income families often pay more than middle and high-income families for the same consumer products. We recommend that the federal and state governments should address the foreclosure crisis through expanded mortgage assistance programs and by new federal legislation to curb unscrupulous practices. And we propose that the federal government establish a \$50 million Financial Fairness Innovation Fund to support state efforts to broaden access to mainstream goods and financial services in predominantly low-income communities.

12. Expand and simplify the Saver's Credit to encourage saving for education, homeownership and retirement. For many families, saving for purposes such as education, a home, or a small business is key to making economic progress. We propose that the federal "Saver's Credit" be reformed to make it fully refundable. This Credit should also be broadened to apply to other appropriate savings vehicles intended to foster asset accumulation, with consideration given to including individual development accounts, children's saving accounts, and college savings plans.

We believe our recommendations will cut poverty in half. The Urban Institute, which modeled the implementation of one set of our recommendations, estimates that four of our steps would reduce poverty by 26 percent, bringing us more than halfway toward our goal. Among their findings:

Taken together, our minimum wage, EITC, child credit, and child care recommendations would reduce poverty by 26 percent. This would mean over nine million fewer people in poverty and a national poverty rate of 9.1 percent—the lowest in recorded U.S. history.

The racial poverty gap would be narrowed. White poverty would fall from 8.7 percent to 7 percent. Poverty among African Americans would fall from 21.4 percent to 15.6 percent. Hispanic poverty would fall from 21.4 percent to 12.9 percent and poverty for all others would fall from 12.7 percent to 10.3 percent.

Child poverty and extreme poverty would both fall. Child poverty would drop by 41 percent. The number of people in extreme poverty would fall by over two million.

Millions of low- and moderate-income families would benefit. Almost half of the benefits would help low- and moderate-income families.

That these recommendations would reduce poverty by more than one quarter is powerful evidence that a 50 percent reduction can be reached within a decade.

The combined cost of our principal recommendations is in the range of \$90 billion a year—a significant cost but one that is necessary and could be readily funded through a fairer tax system. An additional \$90 billion in annual spending would represent about 0.8 percent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product, which is a fraction of the money spent on tax changes that benefited primarily the wealthy in recent years. Consider that:

The current annual costs of the tax cuts enacted by Congress in 2001 and 2003 are in the range of \$400 billion a year.

In 2008 alone the value of the tax cuts to households with incomes exceeding \$200,000 a year is projected to be \$100 billion.

Our recommendations could be fully paid for simply by bringing better balance to the federal tax system and recouping part of

what has been lost by the excessive tax cuts of recent years. We recognize that serious action has serious costs, but the challenge before the nation is not whether we can afford to act, but rather that we must decide to act.

THE NEXT STEPS

In 2009, we will have a new president and a new Congress. Across the nation, there is a yearning for a shared national commitment to build a better, fairer, more prosperous country, with opportunity for all. In communities across the nation, policymakers, business people, people of faith, and concerned citizens are coming together. Our commitment to the common good compels us to move forward.

POVERTY TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Angela Glover Blackwell, Founder and CEO, PolicyLink (co-chair).

Peter B. Edelman, Professor of Law, Georgetown University (co-chair).

Rebecca Blank, Dean, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, Henry Carter Adams Collegiate Professor of Public Policy, University of Michigan.

Linda Chavez-Thompson, Executive Vice President, AFL-CIO.

Reverend Dr. Floyd H. Flake, President, Wilberforce University.

Wizipan Garriott, Law Student and Board President of the He Sapa Leadership Academy.

Maude Hurd, National President, ACORN.

Charles E. M. Kolb, President, Committee for Economic Development.

Meizhu Lui, Executive Director, United for a Fair Economy.

Alice M. Rivlin, Senior Fellow and Director, Greater Washington Research Program, Brookings Institution.

Barbara J. Robles, Associate Professor, Arizona State University.

Robert Solow, Professor Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dorothy Stoneman, Founder and President, YouthBuild USA.

Wellington E. Webb, Former Mayor of Denver.

Mr. SHAYS. I had already yielded back my time.

I wonder if the gracious lady would yield me a minute.

Ms. NORTON. I certainly will.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I want to agree with everything I have heard to the point of the need to have a stimulus package that recognizes those who have the least resources.

But I do want to say that we also need to recognize that we need to stimulate investment in plants, machinery, and we need to make sure that whatever goods consumers buy are likely to be American products and that we are just not transferring that benefit overseas. So there is going to be a lot that happens, but I agree with my colleagues, we will be able to work together on this issue.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the poor in our country have assumed a high profile today because of the state of the economy. I hope that the gentlelady's resolution helps us to bear in mind that the poor in our country need a higher profile throughout the 110th Congress.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 198, expressing the sense of Con-

gress that the United States has a moral responsibility to meet the needs of those persons, groups and communities that are impoverished, disadvantaged or otherwise in poverty, introduced by my distinguished colleague from California, Representative BARBARA LEE. Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, co-founder of the Out of Poverty Caucus, has articulated a national goal to reduce poverty by 50 percent over the next 10 years. This legislation is an imperative instrument in addressing the ongoing endemic that is poverty in America.

Approximately 36.5 million American citizens, 12.3 percent of United States population, live in poverty. The incidence of destitution is associated with race and ethnicity, location, family composition, age, and education. America has allowed poverty to fall off the national agenda. In a nation as industrial and prominent as the United States, it seems paradoxical to have such high levels of poverty. During the 1960s, when President Johnson made poverty a national concern, policies and programs were created to set into motion a series of bills and acts which "brought about real results, reduced rates of poverty, and improved living standards for America's poor."

Madam Speaker, it is essential that this Congress satisfies the needs of Americans who are impoverished, disadvantaged, or otherwise in poverty; this legislation requires that we acknowledge that responsibility. While poverty is believed by some to be a statistical phenomenon, it is in fact a daily reality for millions of Americans. Policy proposals addressing poverty have not kept pace with the needs of millions of Americans. The measure of poverty is simple but rather crude. Poverty cannot be accurately evaluated until we can essentially comprehend the number of people in poverty.

When Mollie Orshansky, renowned economist and statistician, defined the poverty line in the 1960s, she used a farm family living in the 1950s as her model, nevertheless times have changed. In this day and age, an income of \$20,000 is not sufficient for a family of four to survive. Journalist Barbara Ehrenreht worked alongside the "near poor" in her non-fiction piece "Nickel and Dime." Ten years ago, a family in her book earned \$40,000 a year cumulatively, but was still unable to afford suitable housing. An annual income of \$20,000 in 1950 and \$40,000 in 1998 for a family of four is "unpretentious." Technology has advanced, times have changed, the price of living is constantly rising, and those factors, along with many others should be used to evaluate how a family can survive.

Many impoverished individuals are believed to be able to return to self-sufficiency with 12–18 months of assistance and affordable housing. Since its conception, welfare has caused countless economic, political, psychological, and sociological effects that have shaped American society, produced innumerable reforms and depicted its recipients as irresponsible agents of self-inflicted poverty. In 1996, the Republican-led Congress introduced welfare reform. If the objective was to reduce the number of people on the welfare rolls, it worked; however, poverty did not decline. The central goal that needs to be established is how to decrease poverty while simultaneously placing welfare recipients in a position to maintain an existence above the poverty line after assistance. Welfare is not a substantial economic alternative; in no state do welfare

disbursements alone lift a family above the poverty line. The Federal Government must play a vital role in revitalizing and restoring opportunities for Americans to reach the American dream.

Congress is morally obligated to provide better services to meet the needs of its citizens; nevertheless, the quality of the services for various groups differs greatly. The aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita demonstrated that sub-par services are readily available to minorities. While many existing organizations have worked to help those displaced, and some new groups and special efforts have been initiated, the survivors of Hurricane Katrina are still largely disorganized and deprived. In the United States, the incidence of poverty is associated with race and ethnicity, location, family composition, age, and education. Three years ago, the criticisms of the Government's response to Hurricane Katrina generally consisted of condemnations of negligence and lack of leadership in the relief efforts in response to the storm and its aftermath. Currently, the principal criticism is the long overdue assistance for the poverty-stricken.

The U.S. has a higher sense of poverty and a visible phenomenon of poverty than any other country. Internationally, the United States poverty rate at the turn of the 21st century ranked 24th of 25 countries, with only Mexico having a higher percentage rate.

This important piece of legislation will recognize the continuing need of many Americans. This is extremely significant in the sense that it will assist those who desire upward mobility and believe in the "American Dream." This is an unprecedented step forward for impoverished Americans and I applaud this legislation for this significant first step towards helping American realize their dreams.

As we celebrate Dr. King's birthday, we also commemorate the 40th anniversary of King's Poor People's Campaign which, through non-violent direct action, King hoped to focus the Nation's attention on economic inequality and poverty. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this extremely important legislation.

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 198, a resolution introduced by Congresswoman BARBARA LEE that expresses the sense of Congress that the United States should set a national goal of cutting poverty in half over the next 10 years.

Poverty can be defined as meaning a lack of the basic necessities of life such as food, shelter, clothing, health care, education, security, and opportunity. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2006 over 38.7 million men, women and children across this country struggled to survive on an annual income well below the national poverty line. The number of people living in poverty has increased by over 5 million since the year 2000. In a country that prides itself on being the land of freedom and opportunity, and that has a level of affluence unparalleled by any other nation in the world, these statistics are both alarming and unacceptable.

I am a proud cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 198 because I believe that any nation that considers itself great must make a concerted effort to step up and do something about the problem of poverty. When the average national poverty rate is at 13.3 percent and growing, the status of poverty in this country

should not be diagnosed as simply an unfortunate anomaly, but rather, as a nationwide epidemic; an epidemic that should be treated with the utmost care and concern, because it is a condition that affects all of us. Poverty erodes the health and security of our Nation's most valuable resources—our children and our communities. Strong, healthy communities are necessary for the preservation of the American way of life, a way of life that cannot exist when infected by the ills that are symptomatic of poverty stricken areas.

In addition, poverty hits hardest those with the least amount of immunity against the conditions that contribute to poverty. While minority communities have made many significant advancements over the past few decades, a disproportionate number of minorities are still impoverished and disadvantaged. African Americans comprise nearly 25 percent of people living in poverty, Hispanics 22 percent, and Asian Americans nearly 11 percent. Native American communities capture an astounding 25.3 percent of people living under the poverty level, many living in what are considered "fourth world" poverty conditions. Many Native Americans on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations will not make it through the winter due to inadequate housing, warm clothing, and nourishment. In this country, and in this day and age, these numbers are simply deplorable. Unfortunately, they do not stop there.

More than half of those living at or below the Federal poverty level come from single parent households, and children ages 18 and younger have the highest rate of poverty of any age group with 17.6 percent living at or below the poverty line. Instead of receiving a proper education in school, learning valuable life-lessons and leadership skills in extra-curricular activities, and partaking in the many other childhood activities that are a necessary part of growing up, nearly 13 million kids will spend the day wondering whether or not they are going to eat that night, or whether their mother or father will be drunk or in prison when they get home, that is assuming they even have a place to go home to. Nevertheless, these children are expected to perform well in schools, meet the national score on standardized tests, or risk having their school shut down thanks to No Child Left Behind system. Children who live under such conditions are not destined to succeed. Most will not graduate from high school. Many will turn to gangs, drugs, or a life of crime, and as a result, spend most of their adult life in and out of prison.

Poverty is the result of a deep structural problem that implicates our value system as well as our educational and economic institutions, and it is a problem that permeates into all aspects of society. The costs to victims of poverty are great, but the costs to us are greater.

That is why I wholeheartedly emphatically support the commitment to cutting poverty made by H. Con. Res. 198. It will not be easy, but there is a moral, and social urgency facing us. We have the opportunity today to impact the lives of millions and give others the opportunity to share in the great wealth that our nation has to offer.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, in the richest country in the world, no one should go to bed hungry, no one should have to go without heat on a cold winter night, and no one should be deprived of life saving medicine because they can't afford it.

It is so sad that in our country, the richest in the world, 37 million people live below the poverty line and deal with these fears every-day.

As a Congress, we need to do more to help these people, which is why I am proud to stand in support of Congresswoman BARBARA LEE's bill, H. Con. Res. 198, and the goal of cutting poverty in the U.S. in half in the next 10 years.

This bill, recognizing the problem of poverty in our country is a good start, but we need to do more. We can put our money where our mouths are, starting with an economic stimulus package that gets money to the people who need it most in an economic downturn. This can be done by extending unemployment insurance and food stamps to help the neediest among us . . . not by extending tax breaks for the richest people in this country who have amassed great wealth at the expense of the rest of us. Let's do the right thing and help those who actually need it.

Madam Speaker, again I thank Representative LEE for her leadership in fighting poverty and for bringing this resolution to the floor and urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of resolving to cut poverty in half over the next 10 years. America is the richest country in the history of the world, yet 37 million Americans languish in poverty. The poverty rate is an inexcusable 17 percent for all children and 33 percent for black children. As a body, Congress has a moral obligation to alleviate poverty and provide all people with opportunities to lead healthy and independent lives.

The resolution, H. Con. Res. 198, before us is simple: it puts Congress and the Nation on the clock and acknowledges our collective responsibility to the impoverished and disadvantaged. As a country, we spend more than all other countries combined on our military and ongoing wars. Yet, our poverty rate is dead last among developed nations. Clearly, we have the financial ability to drastically reduce the number of people living in poverty. The question is do we have the political will.

I believe the answer is yes. During the 1960s the poverty rate fell from over 22.2 percent to 12.6 percent. These gains were brought about by the creation and expansion of a strong safety net supported by programs such as Medicaid, food stamps, and AFDC. Now, the safety net is frayed and under constant attack from those who don't blink when approving the \$500 billion to fight the Iraq war, but would like to see crucial entitlement programs "wither on the vine." This resolution rejects the failed ideology that has brought us the manmade disaster in New Orleans and the shame of an additional 5 million people living in poverty since 2000.

As we celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday, we must redouble our efforts to fight poverty. Congress has to expand SCHIP and continue moving toward universal health care. We need to ensure that all families can afford childcare, decent housing, nutritious meals, and a good education. These are basic human rights. As a society, our obligation is to lift those who are disadvantaged and provide opportunities. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and rededicate ourselves to eradicating poverty.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong and unwavering support for H. Con.

Res. 198 and am pleased to be a co-sponsor on this Congressional Resolution that draws attention to the approximately 37 million Americans who live in poverty. In particular, I am bound and determined to meeting the Resolution's goal of cutting poverty in half over the next 10 years.

The number of impoverished Floridians increased from 859,888 in 2000 to 943,670 in 2005, a 9.7 percent rise, representing almost 6 percent of the total population. Over those years, Broward County's severely poor grew from 77,942 to 82,327, while Miami-Dade's poverty rate of 6.8 percent was among the highest in the State.

African Americans and Hispanics have poverty rates far above the poverty rate for Caucasians. In 2005, 24.9 percent of African Americans (9.2 million) and 21.8 percent of Hispanics (94 million) had incomes below poverty, compared to 8.3 percent of non-Hispanic whites (16.2 million) and 11.1 percent of Asians (1.4 million). Although African-Americans represent only 12.6 percent of the total population, they make up 24.8 percent of the poor population.

And among those that are the highest of our country's poor are our children. In 2005, 12.3 million children (17.1 percent) were poor. For African American children, this statistic is even higher—in 2005, 34.2 percent of black children were poor (3.7 million). This is inexcusable in a country where so many live in great wealth.

Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness, lack of representation and freedom.

It is time to change these statistics. Our citizens with minimal education, and our citizens without a job are among those that are the most susceptible to poverty. Clearly, Americans need to work. We need to do what we have to do to make this happen.

And we need to do this soon, and not drag our feet on this important issue. This Resolution will motivate us to get moving and gives us a very necessary goal—to cut poverty in half over the next 10 years.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 198, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JUDGE RICHARD B. ALLSBROOK POST OFFICE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4211) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service lo-

cated at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, as the "Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4211

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. JUDGE RICHARD B. ALLSBROOK POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in consideration of H.R. 4211 which names a postal facility in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, the Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office.

H.R. 4211 was introduced by Representative BUTTERFIELD of North Carolina on November 15, 2007. It was reported from the House Oversight Committee on December 12, 2007 by voice vote. This measure has been co-sponsored by 12 Members and has support of the entire North Carolina congressional delegation.

I am asking the House to join me in honoring Judge Richard B. Allsbrook, a dedicated civil servant, who passed away in October 2007.

Judge Allsbrook served his country as a second lieutenant in the United States Navy before becoming an attorney in North Carolina at a family law firm. In 1978, Judge Allsbrook was appointed resident superior court judge for the Sixth Judicial District, from which he retired in September 2000. In addition, he served as a mediator in the North Carolina judicial system, and was sitting president of the Roanoke Rapids Chamber of Commerce.

□ 1445

The community was deeply touched by his efforts. Madam Speaker, I urge swift passage of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of this bill honoring the late Honorable Judge Richard B. Allsbrook with the naming of the Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office located at 725 Roanoke Avenue, in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. Described as a "meticulous, fair and compassionate" jurist, Allsbrook served as the Superior Court Judge for the Sixth Judicial District in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, for 22 years before retiring in 2000.

A native of Halifax, and son of the late State Senator Julian Allsbrook, Judge Allsbrook earned his undergraduate degree and his juris doctorate from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

After spending 4 years as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, Allsbrook spent 20 years practicing law with his father in the practice of Allsbrook, Benton and Knott.

Judge Allsbrook was also an active member of the community, serving as the president of the Roanoke Rapids Kiwanis Club and the president of the Roanoke Rapids Chamber of Commerce. He also received awards for his service to the community, including the Boy Scouts of America's Distinguished Citizen Award.

A dedicated father and grandfather, distinguished public servant, and valuable member of the community, Judge Allsbrook touched many lives and, fittingly, his life deserves to be recognized with the naming of the Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, in his honor.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4211.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ESTABLISHING NATIONAL TUNNEL INSPECTION STANDARDS

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 409) to amend title 23, United States Code, to inspect highway tunnels, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 409

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. NATIONAL TUNNEL INSPECTION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title 23, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 149 the following:

"§ 150. National tunnel inspection program

"(a) NATIONAL TUNNEL INSPECTION STANDARDS.—The Secretary, in consultation with State transportation departments and interested and knowledgeable private organizations and individuals, shall establish national tunnel inspection standards for the proper safety inspection and evaluation of all highway tunnels. The standards established under this subsection shall be designed to ensure uniformity among the States in the conduct of such inspections and evaluations.

"(b) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR INSPECTION STANDARDS.—The standards established under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

"(1) specify, in detail, the method by which highway tunnel inspections shall be carried out by the States;

"(2) establish the maximum time period between the inspections based on a risk-management approach;

"(3) establish the qualifications for those charged with carrying out the inspections;

"(4) require each State to maintain and make available to the Secretary upon request—

"(A) written reports on the results of the inspections together with notations of any action taken pursuant to the findings of the inspections; and

"(B) current inventory data for all highway tunnels located in the State reflecting the findings of the most recent highway tunnel inspections conducted;

"(5) establish procedures for national certification of highway tunnel inspectors;

"(6) establish procedures for conducting annual compliance reviews of State inspections and State implementation of quality control and quality assurance procedures; and

"(7) establish standards for State tunnel management systems to improve the tunnel inspection process and the quality of data collected and reported by the States to the Secretary for inclusion in the national tunnel inventory to be established under this section.

"(c) TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR TUNNEL INSPECTORS.—The Secretary, in cooperation with State transportation departments, shall establish a program designed to ensure that all individuals carrying out highway tunnel inspections receive appropriate training and certification. Such program shall be revised from time to time to take into account new and improved techniques.

"(d) NATIONAL TUNNEL INVENTORY.—The Secretary shall establish a national inventory of highway tunnels reflecting the findings of the most recent highway tunnel inspections conducted by States under this section.

"(e) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section, the Secretary may use funds made available pursuant to the provisions of sections 104(a) and 502."

(b) SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.—Section 133(b)(1) of such title is amended by inserting "tunnels that are eligible for assistance under this title (including safety inspection of such tunnels)," after "highways)".

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 1 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 149 the following:

"150. National tunnel inspection program."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 409.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, this legislation will fill a gap in the national inspection regime and in public safety, one that was brought to our attention by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO). Obviously, a failing infrastructure is very much on the minds of the public, given the collapse in Minnesota this last year, but, unfortunately, the Minnesota instance is not unique and it points to the need for constant vigilance and inspection of the critical infrastructure to avoid tragic accidents. And in this case, the gentleman from Massachusetts has pointed out that we do not have a regular regime of tunnel inspection, nor do we have standards which are set nationally for tunnel safety and inspection, nor do we have certified tunnel inspectors. All of that would be rectified by this legislation, so I'm very supportive of the legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to voice my strong support for H.R. 409, and I would also like to commend Chairman DEFAZIO and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO) for bringing this bill to the floor at this time.

On August 2, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed an earlier version of this bill on a voice vote. I believe that the entire committee agreed with the main objective of this bill, to ensure that our Nation's highway tunnels are safe. But some members had concerns about the new tunnel inspections directly competing with ongoing bridge inspections. This substitute bill addresses these concerns.

This bill requires the Federal Highway Administration to establish a new national highway tunnel inspection program in consultation with State DOTs and other knowledgeable organizations. The new tunnel inspection program is modeled directly on the existing highway bridge inspection program and addresses three major areas: One, it establishes national highway tunnel inspection standards to ensure tunnel inspection uniformity. Secondly, this establishes a national tunnel inventory

to publish the findings of all tunnel inspections. And thirdly, it develops a national program for training and certification of highway tunnel inspectors.

This bill will make tunnel inspection requirements consistent with the current bridge inspection requirements. I think this is a concept we can all agree on.

There are approximately 400 highway tunnels in the United States, and we need to make sure that those tunnels are safe. But there are more than 580,000 road and highway bridges in the United States, including almost 55,000 interstate bridges. I'm pleased that instead of having tunnel inspections compete directly with highway bridge inspections, the substitute bill before us makes tunnel inspections eligible for funding from other highway programs: the Surface Transportation Program, the Federal Highway Administration administrative expenses, or surface transportation research funds.

I hope that if this legislation secures Senate passage and becomes law, we can further fine-tune the tunnel inspection funding source issue so that the different tunnel inspection activities are funded from the appropriate program.

Again, I voice my support for H.R. 409, and I urge its passage.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. CAPUANO).

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, the substance of the bill has already been outlined. I just want to rise to thank the chairman and ranking member of the full committee, Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. MICA, and the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. DUNCAN, for moving this forward; also thank the staff for working out a few items that need to be worked out.

And I would also want to take a moment just to thank the National Transportation Safety Board. This legislation was done in conjunction with them. We had a tragedy in Boston that led me, no different than any other American. I didn't come to Congress knowing that tunnels were not inspected, and I have not met anyone, anyone who thinks that they are not. And when they find out that they are not, it's one of those deals where, well, why not? Of course you should. This legislation will fix this. The National Transportation Safety Board took their duties investigating a tragedy we had in Boston and went, I think, the extra step, and I think the proper extra step, to call on us to pass legislation just like this. I think it was the right thing to do, the courageous thing to do. I think it's good for the country. And again, I want to extend my thanks to those people that made this possible.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 409, to amend title 23

of the United States Code, to ensure the safety of the traveling public by establishing a national program to inspect highway tunnels, modeled after the National Bridge Inspection Program.

I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. CAPUANO, for introducing this important piece of legislation that will address the absence of comprehensive inspections standards for our Nation's highway tunnels.

Madam Speaker, recent tragic events have highlighted the very real crisis facing our Nation's transportation infrastructure. America's transportation network is aging and increasingly in need of maintenance or reconstruction. Many facilities are being stretched to the limit of their design life and beyond.

The tragic collapse of the Interstate 35W bridge in my home State illustrated the deteriorating conditions of our bridges and the need for routine inspections. Similarly, another tragedy in Massachusetts has shown that we must do the same for highway tunnels.

On Monday, July 10, 2006, at approximately 11 p.m., a section of the suspended concrete ceiling above the eastbound lanes of the Interstate 90 connector tunnel in Boston, Massachusetts, fell onto a vehicle traveling to Logan International Airport. A passenger, riding in the right front seat of the vehicle, was killed. The driver escaped with minor injuries.

The National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB, immediately launched an investigation into the cause of the ceiling panel collapse.

On July 10, 2007, the NTSB issued its accident report, identifying the failure of the epoxy adhesive used to attach the panels to the anchors in the ceiling to sustain long-term loads as the probable cause of the accident.

The NTSB report observed that had the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority inspected the area above the suspended ceilings at regular intervals, the anchor creep that led to this accident would likely have been detected, and this tragedy could have been prevented.

The NTSB report also found that the Federal Highway Administration, FHWA, lacked the regulatory authority to conduct tunnel inspections, and recommended that the FHWA seek legislation authorizing the agency to establish a mandatory tunnel inspection program similar to the National Bridge Inspection Program.

H.R. 409 will fulfill the NTSB recommendation, and establish a national program to inspect highway tunnels.

Under this legislation, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with State departments of transportation, private organizations and individuals, is required to establish national tunnel inspection standards for safety inspections and evaluations of all public highway tunnels.

This bill also establishes criteria for certification and training of tunnel inspectors, and requires States to prepare and maintain an inventory of public highway tunnels.

FHWA has already begun to develop a tunnel inspection regime modeled after the bridge inspection program. This regime must account for the inherent differences between bridges and tunnels. Working in conjunction with the Federal Transit Administration, the agency has published highway and rail transit tunnel inspection manuals.

FHWA has also begun the process of working with State departments of transportation, highway tunnel owners, and other stake-

holders to develop National Tunnel Inspection Standards and establish minimum training and qualification requirements for inspectors.

These are important steps, but the passage of this legislation will ensure that FHWA has the resources necessary to develop and implement comprehensive tunnel inspection standards and training.

I thank the gentleman from Florida, Ranking Member MICA, and his staff for working with us to ensure that this legislation accomplished its goal of increasing tunnel safety without inadvertently diverting resources from bridge inspections.

Madam Speaker, while we cannot undo the damage caused by this accident, we can, and we must, take the necessary actions to prevent future tunnel collapses. H.R. 409 establishes a framework to address the serious safety concerns raised by the NTSB, and ensures that tragedies like that of July 10, 2006, will never occur again.

I urge my colleagues to join me in strongly supporting H.R. 409.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 409. This legislation will require that tunnels are inspected with the same kind of intensity and scrutiny as bridges in every community in the United States.

In Massachusetts for years now we have been working on the Central Artery/Tunnel Project, also known as the "Big Dig", a system of tunnels that has made it much easier to get around in and outside of Boston. In July of 2006 there was a tragic death in the Ted Williams tunnel due to a collapse of a concrete panel in the ceiling. By adding tunnels to all inspection legislation we will give states the vital jurisdiction they need to look into important transportation structures.

This bill will not require excessive funds or staffing. As of right now it is estimated by the Department of Transportation that it will cost less than \$1 million and require 5 employees or less to run the program. This is a small amount to ask for the safety it would provide to all of our constituents across the U.S.

The legislation calls for standards that must be met for all of the tunnel inspections and timelines for states to fix any reported deficiencies. We have seen first hand in Minnesota this year what can happen if a structurally deficient bridge is left unchecked. This bill would help reduce the risk of more tragedies occurring as a result of tunnels that have fallen into disrepair. In addition, the Federal Highway Administration would be required to work with state transportation departments to establish a certification and training program for tunnel inspectors as well as keep an inventory of highway tunnels.

I urge adoption of this important legislation.

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 409, a bill that will go a long way toward making our highway infrastructure safer. I want to give special thanks to my colleague from Somerville, Congressman CAPUANO, for introducing this common-sense bill.

H.R. 409 expands the National Bridge Inspection Program to include the inspection of highway tunnels. Current law does not contain national standards or requirements for inspecting tunnels. This bill corrects that flaw. In doing so, I believe that lives will be saved.

It is, sadly, because of the loss of life that this bill came to be.

On the evening of July 10, 2006, Milena Del Valle was killed tragically as she and her husband traveled to Boston's Logan Airport, utilizing the Ted Williams Tunnel. Milena was killed when sections of the concrete ceiling collapsed.

A number of investigations were launched in the wake of this tragedy. One, undertaken by the National Transportation Safety Board, cited "inadequate regulatory requirements for tunnel inspections" as a major safety issue that merited correction.

This bill puts in place those needed requirements, mandatory tunnel inspections, and creates a national list of tunnels, to complement existing lists of bridges. I hope that swift action today in the House will be followed by the Senate, so that any future tragedies like we saw in Massachusetts can be averted. Again, I want to thank Congressman CAPUANO, and am pleased to support this bill.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I simply will urge passage, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 409, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish national tunnel inspection standards for the proper safety inspection and evaluation of all highway tunnels, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN HIGHWAY USERS ALLIANCE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 772) recognizing the American Highway Users Alliance on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 772

Whereas in 1932, Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., then president of General Motors Corporation, and other civic leaders had the foresight to found the National Highway Users Conference for the purpose of working "for good, all-weather roads in every state";

Whereas in 1970, the National Highway Users Conference merged with the Automotive Safety Foundation to form the Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility, which in 1995 was renamed as the American Highway Users Alliance (known as the "Highway Users");

Whereas since its founding, the Highway Users has been a persistent and outspoken

proponent for adequate funding of the Nation's highway infrastructure and a consistent voice for motorists who use the highways for leisure, family, and business purposes and for those who depend on the Nation's transportation infrastructure for commercial purposes;

Whereas the Highway Users has voiced the interests of motorists and businesses on all major national highway and traffic safety legislation over the past 75 years, including the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, which authorized the Interstate Highway System and established the Highway Trust Fund;

Whereas the Highway Users has been a consistent force for protecting the integrity of the Highway Trust Fund and State highway trust funds;

Whereas research conducted by the Highway Users has documented the promise and potential of modern United States highways in improving safety, facilitating emergency evacuations, and growing the national economy; and

Whereas the Highway Users has been a strong advocate in favor of strengthening the national highway network by promoting a strong Federal role in mobility and safety and by advocating policies that benefit highway users: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the American Highway Users Alliance on the occasion of its 75th anniversary;

(2) commends the many achievements of the American Highway Users Alliance; and

(3) encourages the American Highway Users Alliance to continue its tradition of excellence in service to motorists and the transportation industry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 772.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 772, a resolution to congratulate the American Highway Users Alliance on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

Founded in 1932 as the National Highway Users Conference, in 1970 the group merged with the Automotive Safety Foundation and were renamed the Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility, and in 1995 they took on the current name of American Highway Users Alliance ("the Highway Users").

The Highway Users has always been an outspoken proponent for adequate funding for our Nation's highway infrastructure and a consistent voice for motorists and those who depend on our highways for commercial purposes.

For the past 75 years, Highway Users have expressed the interests of motorists and businesses on all major national highway and traffic safety legis-

lation, including strong support for the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956, which authorized the Interstate Highway System, established the Highway Trust Fund. Since then, it's been an unwavering force for protecting the integrity of the Federal Highway Trust Fund and State Highway Trust Funds.

As we received a report last week on the state of the Nation's infrastructure from a commission that was created by the passage of the SAFETEA-LU bill, we find that we are dramatically in deficit in investing in the Nation's infrastructure. And the current administration is dramatically in denial about the deficit in investing in infrastructure, so there will be a lot of work to be done by the American Highway Users Alliance and other advocates for an improved transportation network in the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to also voice my support for House Resolution 772. House Resolution 772 was introduced by Chairman OBERSTAR, Ranking Member MICA, Highways and Transit Subcommittee Chairman DEFAZIO, and myself to recognize the 75th anniversary of the American Highway Users Alliance, a broad national coalition of organizations representing motorists and businesses.

The American Highway Users Alliance is a nonprofit advocacy organization with the mission to promote safe, uncongested highways and enhanced mobility. The group's membership includes over 300 national trade associations, corporations, small businesses, and other State and local nonprofit groups. They represent over 45 million highway users.

Since 1932, the group has fought for road and bridge investments that will save lives, promote economic growth, improve quality of life, and protect freedom of mobility.

The American Highway Users Alliance focuses its campaigns on fair highway use taxation, Federal highway policy and funding, and responsible environmental policy.

The American Highway Users Alliance is an important voice for the interests of motorists and businesses and has been an active participant in every major national highway and traffic safety law passed over the last 75 years.

I strongly support this resolution and congratulate the American Highway Users Alliance on its achievements and on its 75th anniversary. Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 772, to congratulate American Highway Users Alliance on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

The American Highway Users Alliance ("Highway Users") has changed its name several times over 75 years. The group was

founded in 1932 as the National Highway Users Conference. In 1970, the group merged with the Automotive Safety Foundation and was renamed the Highway Users Federation for Safety and Mobility. In 1995, the organization took on its current name.

Yet no matter what the group was called, Highway Users has always been a persistent and outspoken proponent for adequate funding and oversight of the Nation's highway infrastructure, and a diligent voice for the interests of the public.

Highway Users has voiced the interests of motorists and businesses on all major national highway and traffic safety legislation over the past 75 years, including strong support of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, which authorized the Interstate Highway System and established the Highway Trust Fund.

Highway Users has worked tirelessly over the past 75 years to protect the integrity of the Highway Trust Fund and State highway trust funds.

The organization has conducted crucial research documenting the promise and potential of modern United States highways in improving safety, facilitating emergency evacuations, and growing the national economy.

The American Highway Users Alliance has also been a consistent advocate in favor of strengthening the national highway network by promoting a strong Federal role in mobility and safety and by advocating policies that benefit all highway users.

For these and other contributions to our daily lives, our economic well-being, and our health and safety, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of the American Highway Users Alliance and its sustained contribution in service to our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and join me in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the American Highway Users Alliance.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers, and so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I would yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 772.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

HONORING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 866) honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during

2007, far surpassing all of our previous records.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 866

Whereas the estimated street value of the cocaine seized by the Coast Guard in 2007 is more than \$4,700,000,000 or nearly half of the Coast Guard's annual budget;

Whereas the Coast Guard's at sea drug interdictions are making a difference in the lives of American citizens evidenced by the reduced supply of cocaine in more than 35 major cities throughout the United States;

Whereas keeping illegal drugs from reaching our shores where they undermine American values and threaten families, schools, and communities continues to be an important national priority;

Whereas through robust interagency teamwork, collaboration with international partners, and ever-more effective tools and tactics, the Coast Guard has seized more than 2,000,000 pounds of cocaine during the past 10 years and will continue to tighten the web of detection and interdiction at sea; and

Whereas the Coast Guard men and women who, while away from family and hundreds of miles from our shores, execute this dangerous mission, as well as other vital maritime safety, security, and environmental protection missions, with quiet dedication and without want of public recognition, continue to show dedication and selfless service in protecting the Nation and the American people; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives honors the United States Coast Guard, with its proud 217 year legacy of maritime law enforcement and border protection, along with the brave men and women whose efforts clearly demonstrate the honor, respect, and devotion to duty that ensures America's parents can sleep soundly knowing the Coast Guard is on patrol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. COBLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 866.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the United States Coast Guard provides extraordinary service to our Nation on a daily basis. They are providing for homeland security. They are providing in this case that we will talk about in some depth a drug interdiction to keep our citizens safe and deprive drug traffickers of easy access to the United States, and they also provide life-saving services, in addition to other routine law enforcement and monitoring activities.

This seizure is fairly extraordinary: 350,000 pounds of cocaine with an esti-

mated street value of about \$4.7 billion. That is more than half the budget of the United States Coast Guard. It is extraordinary for this, the smallest of our uniformed services, to have provided that much protection for our country.

There are 41,000 men and women in the Coast Guard who patrol our Nation's shores, gather and process intelligence from around the world every single day of the year, as I mentioned earlier, both a homeland security purpose, and in this case, to interdict drug smuggling.

Though most Americans may not often see the Coast Guard at work along our 95,000 miles of coastline, you can be certain that the effects of the service's essential work ripple down into even local neighborhoods. Drug dealers are feeling the effects of the Coast Guard's good work as they complain of short supplies in more than 35 major U.S. cities.

The Coast Guard has been guarding our coasts and securing our borders since 1790. They do so without need for special recognition. They execute their missions daily, whether it is maritime safety, environmental protection, search and rescue, maritime law enforcement or homeland security.

Due to the Coast Guard's aggressive enforcement in monitoring the Caribbean drug routes, drug smugglers have now had to resort to much more dangerous and expensive tactics providing a deterrent. They've had deterrents to specific routes, which takes them more than 1,000 miles offshore, which costs them more money and presents logistical difficulties, and yet again, gives the Coast Guard further opportunities to interdict.

Although the Coast Guard is the smallest of the seven uniformed services, it is the Nation's leading maritime enforcement agency. Interdicting drugs is an Interagency effort. The Coast Guard relies heavily on their partnerships with numerous Federal and State agencies, including the Department of Defense, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration and Customs and Border Patrol to extend their law enforcement authority.

These partnerships are a critical component of their interdiction success. They have also negotiated international bilateral agreements to allow them to conduct operations and stop illegal smuggling outside of U.S. territorial waters.

H. Res. 866 honors the brave men and women of the Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication and commitment to protecting the United States resulted in this extraordinary interdiction of illegal drug shipments in 2007, and on a daily basis protects our Nation and our citizens.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 866 and urge adoption of the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, initially, I would like to express thanks to Chairman OBERSTAR and Subcommittee Chairman CUMMINGS for their support of H. Res. 866, and I also want to express thanks to Ranking Member MICA and Subcommittee Ranking Member LATOURETTE for their support of the measure and the members on the subcommittee who cosponsored the resolution.

H. Res. 866, Madam Speaker, recognizes the men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose efforts led to a record year in drug interdiction. They are to be commended for their dedication and selfless service in protecting the American people.

Madam Speaker, I'm going to read some numbers imminently, and oftentimes when one reads numbers, it becomes boring and induces sleep, but these numbers I think are significant to the issue at hand.

In 2007, the Coast Guard seized over 355,000 pounds of cocaine, besting the previous record by almost 20,000 pounds. These interdictions removed more than \$4.7 billion worth of illegal drugs destined for our communities. Because of these efforts, today our families, schools and communities are more safe and secure despite the bold and sophisticated actions of drug smugglers.

I'd like to take a minute to highlight a few interdictions which led to this year's drug seizure record. First, the Coast Guard made its largest maritime cocaine seizure when it intercepted a Panamanian vessel carrying more than 33,000 pounds of narcotics in March of last year. Additionally, in September of 2007, the Coast Guard interdicted more than 9,000 pounds of cocaine and 3,600 gallons of liquid cocaine.

Finally, Coast Guard men and women, in collaboration with interagency partners, interdicted and boarded a self-propelled, semi-submersible vessel loaded with an estimated \$352 billion worth of cocaine this past August.

These success stories, Madam Speaker, are the result of an interagency approach to stemming the tide of illegal drugs. According to Director John Walters of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the efforts are clearly working as the average price of cocaine has increased and the quality decreased.

Since 1790, the Coast Guard has been the Nation's leading maritime law enforcement agency. Today, missions include drug interdiction, migrant interdiction, fisheries enforcement, environmental compliance and safe boating enforcement. Clearly, the success of the men and women of the Coast Guard is attributed to the multifaceted nature of this branch.

The Coast Guard also confronts unique obstacles with migrant smugglers who, not unlike drug runners, are becoming more brazen and bold in their efforts. I believe we must continue to work to provide the enhanced penalties

necessary to deter and punish dangerous, high-speed pursuits and other patently unsafe activity associated with maritime alien smuggling. If we can implement increased deterrence, I have no doubt that the success that the Coast Guard has in drug interdiction will translate to similar success with migrant interdiction.

As we move forward, we need to ensure that the Coast Guard has the appropriate resources to ensure our safety and security. Currently, the Coast Guard is in the midst of a fleet modernization. The overall intent is to provide the men and women of the Coast Guard with the necessary tools to protect our homeland. I applaud the actions taken by Admiral Allen, the commandant, to move this acquisition program, which is desperately needed, in the right direction.

I also again applaud Chairman OBERSTAR, Subcommittee Chairman CUMMINGS, as well as Congressman MICA and Congressman LATOURETTE, the ranking members of the full committee and the subcommittee, for their efforts to complement and oversee these actions, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that the Coast Guard has the equipment necessary to meet our homeland security and safety needs.

Again, Madam Speaker, we commend the men and women of the United States Coast Guard for their drug interdiction success in 2007, and again, I want to thank my colleagues for their consideration and support of H. Res. 866.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

Mr. SOUDER. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished former chairman from North Carolina who's been a leader in the anti-narcotics efforts in the Judiciary Committee and elsewhere and a tireless combatant against illegal drugs. I also want to thank Chairman OBERSTAR who clearly knows the importance of the Coast Guard in the Great Lakes, and Ranking Member JOHN MICA who headed the Drug Subcommittee, who I succeeded as chairman of that subcommittee a number of years ago; Subcommittee Chairman CUMMINGS, who was the ranking member of the Drug Subcommittee over the last 6 years; and my friend STEVE LATOURETTE as well.

This resolution has a particular personal importance to me, too, beyond the larger question. The big bust of 42,845 pounds of cocaine was primarily done by the Coast Guard Cutter Sherman. Captain Charlie Diaz served as a detailee to our subcommittee for a number of years, and then was detailed to the Speaker's office, and I want to congratulate Charlie in particular and his crew on the Sherman.

It would be nice to claim that we taught him how to do this, but in fact, we're just really glad that while he was here on the Hill learning how we work that he didn't lose the skills necessary to track down the huge loads of cocaine and other things the Coast Guard does.

It's also important that in this big bust where they got the freighter Gatun and 14 people just off the coast of Panama, it's critical to have the intelligence. We, earlier, heard about the joint agency effort, particularly JATF, the Joint Agency Task Force, based out of south Florida that is run by the Coast Guard and provides such valuable intelligence. You're just not going to pick up a boat and find 42,000 pounds of cocaine, nearly 20 tons of cocaine. You have to have decent intelligence because when you look at the Bahamas and all those boats out there, we have to have these kind of coordinated efforts, and JATF is a key part of it, and drug intelligence is a key part of it.

I want to thank Commandant Allen, Admiral Allen, in particular, for understanding that narcotics are part of the terrorism effort. There's tremendous pressure on the Coast Guard, and in the Great Lakes and Alaska and many places, its fisheries, search and rescue is still the day-to-day what they do. They have all sorts of migrant interventions way out even coming in towards Hawaii, coming off of Haiti, coming off of Cuba, huge challenges in migrant interdiction.

They're trying to patrol and have increasing narcotics coming off from the Andean region into the eastern Pacific off of Mexico. We have routes that are going into Guatemala and Panama, like this big interception, biggest bust in the history of the Coast Guard. There are constant challenges.

Last year, we had zero deaths from what we just were talking about, 9/11-type terrorism, and 20,000 from drug overdose. Since 9/11, we've lost roughly 120,000 Americans to drug and alcohol abuse and all the violence that associates with that, and we lost 3,300 at 9/11.

It's important to understand we're dealing with all sorts of terrorism here, and the Coast Guard has been an important element. As the ranking member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border, Port Security and Global Anti-Terrorism, I'm one who understands how conflicted they are in their missions: Do they stay at port and protect the port? Are they supposed to be out getting a sailboat that tipped over? Are they supposed to be helping the fisheries? Are they supposed to be trying to get people in the eastern Pacific, as they go out past the Galapagos Islands? What about the Caribbean?

They are so multitasked that this Congress has to understand that if we're going to ask the Coast Guard to tackle all these missions, there has to be adequate funding. We have to make sure that not only do the Deepwater ships float, but we also need to make

sure they have them. The controversies over the construction doesn't change the need.

As the drug traffickers move further out into the ocean, they have to have the ability to stay at sea longer. They can't keep running back into port because that's when the drug dealers, and if you can smuggle this much drugs, you can smuggle anthrax, you can smuggle nuclear parts, you can smuggle anything. Contraband is contraband.

If we aren't out there with a physical presence, if we don't have boats that are fast enough, if we don't have helicopters that can come off, if we can't surround or disable, we're not going to be able to intercept narcotics or other terrorists.

□ 1515

I want to commend Commandant Allen, who also basically bailed us out in Katrina, because the Coast Guard has served such an important function in so many areas there is not enough we can do to thank the men and women of the Coast Guard for their bravery, for their ability to do multitasking. And it's very important for this Congress to honor them and to make sure they have adequate funding.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 866, which recognizes the brave men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard for their tireless work and dedication in guarding our coasts and securing our borders since 1790. I thank the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), a former Coastguardsman, for introducing this resolution.

Last year was particularly noteworthy for the Coast Guard's drug interdiction efforts. In 2007, the Coast Guard seized more than 350,000 pounds of cocaine, far surpassing all previous Coast Guard records. This seizure had a street value of over \$4.7 billion, which equates to almost 50 percent of the Coast Guard's budget.

Throughout its history, the Coast Guard has protected the nation from piracy, rum runners, and illegal drug and migrant smugglers. The Coast Guard's first documented opium seizure was in 1890, by the Revenue Cutter *Wolcott*. In 1921, the Coast Guard Cutter *Seneca* seized 1,500 cases of liquor from a rum running schooner off the coast of New Jersey.

Due to the Coast Guard's aggressive drug interdiction pursuits, the supply of cocaine has been greatly reduced in more than 35 major U.S. cities. This has made a significant difference in the lives of American citizens.

The Coast Guard has established interagency and international partnerships which have contributed to its success. The United States negotiated bilateral agreements with 26 Caribbean and South American nations to allow the Coast Guard to stop illegal smuggling and conduct operations far outside the United States territorial seas.

Through these partnerships and more effective tools and tactics, the Coast Guard seized 2 million pounds of cocaine in the past 10 years. In March 2007, the Coast Guard made its largest maritime cocaine seizure in history when it intercepted and seized a Panamanian vessel carrying approximately 20 tons of the dangerous narcotic.

I commend the brave men and women of the Coast Guard for their selfless service and dedication to Nation and the American people. They work tirelessly to fulfill the numerous missions of the service, from search and rescue and environmental protection to maritime law enforcement and homeland security. We can live each day in solace knowing that the Coast Guard is on watch.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in strongly supporting H. Res. 866.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 866, introduced by my distinguished colleague from North Carolina, Representative COBLE, honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records. This bipartisan legislation honors the Coast Guard's important 217-year legacy of protecting American borders and enforcing the laws of the sea.

The maritime safety laws of this country were written in understanding and appreciation of the peril which mariners face when they get on a ship, go out to sea, whether on the salt-water or the fourth coastline of this country, the Great Lakes.

Americans put their trust every day in the Coast Guard to regulate safety on ferry boats and other types of vessels conveying passengers, or on liquefied natural gas tankers that come into our ports. We have to ensure that the Coast Guard will get their full funding needed to carry out those responsibilities.

The United States Coast Guard is the smallest of the seven uniformed services of the United States. Their mission is to protect the public, environment, and the economic and security interest of the United States' coasts, ports, and inland waterways. During the Coast Guard's 217-year legacy of border protection and maritime law enforcement, modern technologies have made their job more perilous. This, however, has not deterred our Nation's brave young men and women from conducting the dangerous duty of drug interdiction.

In 2007, the Coast Guard seized more than 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea. The street value of this seizure is worth over an estimated \$4.7 billion. The sum is nearly one-half of the Coast Guard's annual budget.

The Coast Guard's at-sea drug seizures have reduced the supply of cocaine in more than 35 major cities across the United States, consequently making a positive difference in our American communities. This important legislation recognizes the overwhelming contributions of the Coast Guard to the American community. It furthermore applauds the Coast Guard for their commitment to participating as part of a robust interagency team and international partners that has contributed to the seizure over 2 million pounds of cocaine in the past 10 years.

I commend the men and women of the Coast Guard, who spend countless hours at sea away from their families while they unrelentingly work to execute their service's mission. I acknowledge the commitment and selfless service required to protect our Nation and the American people done by Coast Guard men and women without want of public recognition.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and, in so

doing, giving our men and women in uniform the respect and recognition they deserve.

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DeFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 866.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3120

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my cosponsorship of the bill, H.R. 3120, be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

COMMISSION ON THE ABOLITION OF THE TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE ACT

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3432) to establish the Commission on the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

On page 15, strike lines 3 through 5.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise as the sponsor of H.R. 3432 and yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank Chairman LANTOS and Ranking Member ROSELEHTINEN for their leadership on this legislation. I would also like to thank

my friends in the other body and the senior Senator from my home State of New Jersey for sponsoring and ensuring the passage of this bill. And finally, I would like to thank Speaker PELOSI and Representative CLYBURN for their assistance in bringing this important and timely bill to the House.

This year will mark the 200th anniversary of the act to prohibit the importation of slaves, which effectively ended the legal transatlantic slave trade.

The bill under consideration before us, H.R. 3432, the 200th Anniversary Commemoration Commission of the Abolition of Transatlantic Slave Trade, establishes a commission to cultivate and preserve the memory of a grave injustice in American history, the transatlantic slave trade, and to mark the trade's conclusion at the hands of President Thomas Jefferson.

As you know, the transatlantic slave trade was the capture and procurement of Africans, mostly from west and central Africa, to western colonies and new nations in America, including the United States, where they were enslaved in forced labor between the 15th and mid-19th centuries.

In the early years of this Republic, the transatlantic slave trade constituted a thriving economic vein of the United States. By 1807, millions of Africans had been captured and transported to the Americas on notorious slave ships. That ship replica can be seen at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore, Maryland.

Many individuals perished as a result of torture, including rape, malnutrition, and disease. Those who survived faced the miserable prospects of a lifetime in bondage. Few Americans are aware that captured slaves resisted their enslavement until the bitter end.

During the Middle Passage, enslaved Africans defied their slave masters through nonviolent and violent means, including hunger strikes, suicide, and shipboard revolts, the most historically recognized events taking place on board the *Don Carlos* in 1732 and on board the *Amistad* in 1839.

On March 3, 1807, President Thomas Jefferson signed into law the Transatlantic Slave Trade Act, which prohibited the importation of slaves from any port or any place within the jurisdiction of the United States. This bill was nothing short of revolutionary at that time in 1806 when it was passed through this Congress. It single-handedly outlawed the long-standing and brutal slave trade of transporting Africans to the United States.

As we know, even before this bill was passed, free and slave persons fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of Independence against Britain. In the Boston Massacre on March 3, 1770, Crispus Attucks was the first American to shed his blood at that Boston Massacre, which was led by Major Pitcairn, at that time a British officer. Iron-

ically, in 1775, at the famous Battle of Bunker Hill, Peter Salem and Salem Poor were two outstanding blacks who fought with the minutemen. And it was Peter Salem who fired the shot that killed Major Pitcairn, who led the Boston Massacre. So, there were blacks long before slavery was ended that fought heroically for this country.

The commission will encourage civic, historical, educational, religious, economic and other organizations, as well as the State and local governments throughout the United States, to organize and participate in anniversary activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the transatlantic slave trade.

As we constantly admonish the prevalence of modern-day slavery worldwide, it would be hypocritical if we did not acknowledge the history of transatlantic slave trade and slavery that existed not long ago in our country.

African labor was an essential feature of economic development in Europe and our former colonies, including the United States. All of the nations involved flourished economically as a result of slave labor.

Slave trade and the legacy of slavery continues to have a profound impact on social and economic disparities, hatred, bias, racism and discrimination that continues to affect people in the Americas, particularly those of African descent.

It is important, as Americans, that we extend our highest appreciation for the contributions and struggles of African Americans to create an equitable and just society from which we all benefit today.

The commission created by this bill will be tasked with the mandate to plan, develop and execute programs and activities appropriate with the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slavery. The mission is timely and the subject is critical.

The United States is a primary voice on trafficking issues. We are also the principal advocates for human rights and freedom around the world. Our Nation's willingness to confront its past and calmly assess the impact of slavery on the United States strengthens our ability to serve as an advocate on the international stage.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this timely legislation that will embrace America's history and honor its past.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3432, an act to establish a commission on the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.

The House passed this bill on October 2nd of last year, and today we take it up again as amended by the Senate, which removed three lines of authorizing language.

For over 200 years, countless Africans died appalling deaths during the so-called "Middle Passage," the inhumane overseas voyage of their lives to slavery. Many Africans never made it to the Americas because they died on the way.

In that era, as throughout history, man's inhumanity to man had a lot to do with money. The Middle Passage referred to a middle portion of a triangular trade in cargo and people that began and ended in Europe.

Portuguese, English, Spanish, French, Dutch and other traders, including Americans, arrived on the West Coast of Africa where they sold or traded European cargo of textiles, firearms and other goods for Africans, who had been enslaved or kidnapped in many cases by other Africans. From there, they began the inhumane "Middle" journey to the Caribbean Islands and the Americas, during which many of them died. In the New World, which included North and South America and the Caribbean Islands, the slaves were sold for profit and traded for colonial goods that traveled mainly back to Europe, such as rum, sugar, rice and molasses.

Most of the victims of the Atlantic slave trade ended up in the Caribbean Islands and South America. Approximately 5 percent ended up in North America. These humans served as cheap forced labor for profiteers.

As recognized in this bill, the Transatlantic Slave Act went into effect 200 years ago this month, prohibiting the importation of slaves into the United States. President Thomas Jefferson authorized this act in 1808. Sadly, in spite of the formal prohibition and the act of Congress, this shameful institution of slavery persisted in this country for nearly 6 decades afterwards.

This bill will establish a commission to ensure that this important anniversary is appropriately commemorated within the United States and abroad. It will help afford all Americans the opportunity to learn more about the institution of slavery and its vestiges so that we may understand this tragic aspect of history.

In addition to promoting greater tolerance and understanding within the United States, this commission can also help shed light on the fact that slavery still exists in the modern world 200 years after the transatlantic slave trade was abolished. It exists today as it did in the past because of greed. It exists in the form of human trafficking. It exists wherever any group is systematically robbed of their fundamental human rights. These problems are undeniably real for the hundreds and thousands of women and children who are trafficked internationally every year.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate, on the day after we honor the late Dr. Martin Luther King, a humanitarian

and advocate of basic human rights, that we pass this legislation.

I want to thank the author of the bill, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for his efforts.

I urge all colleagues to support this measure.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Let me thank the gentleman from Texas for his eloquent statement, very well done, and thank you very much for your support of this legislation.

As we conclude, there were two other Members who indicated they wanted to speak, but I think that our time is about expiring.

But let me, once again, thank our chairman and ranking member for assisting us in bringing this bill forward. We hope that, as has been indicated, that we will be able to deal with modern-day slavery. We have problems in our country today where people are being brought in from eastern Europe and other areas where they are being exploited, and we need to really be more vigilant about wiping some of these terrible practices away.

And so, we hope that this commission will focus not only on the past, deal with the present, but also deal with the future. And we certainly appreciate the support from the other body and the senior Senator from New Jersey.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3432, the 200th Anniversary Commemoration Commission of the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade of 2007, which I am proud, along with over 95 of my colleagues, to cosponsor. This legislation recognizes the 200th anniversary of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, and it establishes the rubric from which the Commission, to be known as the "Transatlantic Slave Trade 200th Anniversary Commission," shall be formed.

I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, Congressman PAYNE, for introducing this important legislation, as well as the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman LANTOS, for his leadership on this issue.

Madam Speaker, though 200 years have passed since the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade, the legacy of slavery continues to have a profound impact on American society. The legacy of social and economic disparity lives on, as do hatred, bias, and discrimination. Despite two centuries of progress, the African American community continues to feel the impact of the transatlantic slave trade, and subsequent years of racism and persecution.

While our Nation has pursued the ideals of liberty and equality for all, there still remain steps that must be taken in order to ensure that even such a dark piece of our Nation's history be preserved and its conclusion at the hand of President Thomas Jefferson be celebrated.

Madam Speaker, the bill before us establishes a commission to cultivate and preserve the memory of a grave injustice in American history: we must recognize and in some small way try to rectify our past. In the early years of the Republic, the transatlantic slave trade

constituted a thriving economic vein of the United States. By 1807, millions of Africans had been captured and transported to the Americas, many perishing as the result of torture, rape, malnutrition, and disease. It was not until March of 1807 that President Thomas Jefferson signed into law "An Act to prohibit the importation of slaves into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States," a Congressionally approved bill intended to end the heinous practice of the transatlantic slave trade.

It is in commemoration of President Jefferson's revolutionary act, and to explore further the impacts of the slave trade on our Nation that H.R. 3432 establishes the 200th Anniversary Commemoration Commission. This important commission will be composed of 11 congressionally appointed members charged with the task of planning, developing, and executing programs and activities appropriate to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade. Though the Senate amendments to this bill strike the appropriation of funds for this important legislation, I still feel that this is an imperative first step in the right direction. While I am disappointed that the Senate did not see fit to allocate the necessary funds to see the formation of this unprecedented commission to fruition, I remain supportive of the significant mission of this legislation and hope to see it through to its completion.

January 1, 2008, marked the 200th anniversary of the "Act to Prohibit the Importation of Slaves." The United States today serves as a moral compass for the rest of the world and as such we must provide a voice for human trafficking issues. Our willingness to confront our Nation's past and to address the impacts of the slave trade and its legacy on the United States strengthens our undeterred commitment to serving as an advocate for human rights and freedom in the international community.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 3432.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro

tempore (Mr. GUTIERREZ) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4211, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 866, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

JUDGE RICHARD B. ALLSBROOK POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4211, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4211.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 19]

YEAS—391

Abercrombie	Burton (IN)	Dent
Ackerman	Butterfield	Diaz-Balart, L.
Aderholt	Buyer	Diaz-Balart, M.
Akin	Calvert	Dicks
Alexander	Camp (MI)	Dingell
Allen	Campbell (CA)	Doggett
Altmire	Cannon	Donnelly
Andrews	Cantor	Doolittle
Arcuri	Capito	Doyle
Baca	Capps	Drake
Bachus	Capuano	Dreier
Baldwin	Cardoza	Duncan
Barrett (SC)	Carnahan	Edwards
Barrow	Carney	Ehlers
Bartlett (MD)	Carter	Ellsworth
Barton (TX)	Castle	Emanuel
Bean	Castor	Emerson
Becerra	Chabot	Engel
Berkley	Chandler	English (PA)
Berry	Clarke	Eshoo
Biggert	Clay	Etheridge
Bilbray	Cleaver	Everett
Bilirakis	Clyburn	Fallin
Bishop (GA)	Coble	Farr
Bishop (NY)	Cohen	Fattah
Bishop (UT)	Cole (OK)	Feeney
Blackburn	Conaway	Ferguson
Blumenauer	Conyers	Filner
Blunt	Cooper	Flake
Boehner	Costa	Forbes
Bonner	Courtney	Fortenberry
Bono Mack	Cramer	Fossella
Boozman	Crenshaw	Fox
Boren	Crowley	Frank (MA)
Boswell	Cubin	Franks (AZ)
Boucher	Cuellar	Frelinghuysen
Boustany	Culberson	Garrett (NJ)
Boyd (FL)	Cummings	Gerlach
Boyd (KS)	Davis (AL)	Gilchrest
Brady (PA)	Davis (CA)	Gillibrand
Brady (TX)	Davis (KY)	Gingrey
Braley (IA)	Davis, David	Gohmert
Brown (GA)	Davis, Lincoln	Gonzalez
Brown (SC)	Davis, Tom	Goode
Brown-Waite,	Deal (GA)	Goodlatte
Ginny	DeFazio	Gordon
Buchanan	Delahunt	Granger
Burgess	DeLauro	Graves

Green, Al
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)

McCarthy (NY)
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pence
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Richardson
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothman
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar

Sali
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancred o
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—39

Bachmann
Baird
Baker
Berman
Brown, Corrine
Costello
Davis (IL)
DeGette
Ellison
Gallegly
Giffords
Green, Gene

Grijalva
Hare
Harman
Hayes
Hinojosa
Hunter
Johnson (IL)
Kingston
LaHood
Lantos
Lucas
Miller, Gary

Moran (KS)
Napolitano
Radanovich
Rahall
Rohrabacher
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sanchez, Loretta

Sherman
Snyder
Solis
Sutton
Watt
Wilson (OH)

□ 1854

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 19. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on H.R. 4211—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 725 Roanoke Avenue in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, as the “Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office”.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 19 on passing the Judge Richard B. Allsbrook Post Office Bill, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

HONORING THE UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 866, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 866.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 0, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 20]

YEAS—391

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Bachmann
Bachus
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher

Boustany
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Campbell (CA)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carter
Castle
Castor
Chabot
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coble
Cohen

Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Lincoln
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers

Ellsworth
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxy
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gillibrand
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green, Al
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hirono
Hobson
Hodes
Hoekstra
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Jordan
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee
Levin

Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)

Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lungren, Daniel
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Lynch
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Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)

Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Rothman
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sarbanes
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shays
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Souder
Space
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Tancred o
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—39

Baird	Harman	Radanovich
Baker	Hayes	Rahall
Berman	Hinojosa	Rohrabacher
Brown, Corrine	Holden	Ross
Costello	Hunter	Roybal-Allard
Davis (IL)	Johnson (IL)	Rush
DeGette	Kingston	Sanchez, Loretta
Ellison	LaHood	Sherman
Gallegly	Lantos	Snyder
Giffords	Lucas	Solis
Green, Gene	Miller, Gary	Sutton
Grijalva	Moran (KS)	Watt
Hare	Napolitano	Wilson (OH)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1906

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 20. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 866—Honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 20 on agreeing to honor the Coast Guard's drug interdiction effort, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to fill the existing vacancy thereon:

Mr. SCHIFF, California

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles.

H.R. 4986. An act to provide for the enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal year 2008, as previously enrolled, with certain modifications to address the foreign sovereign immunities provisions of title 28, United States Code, with respect to the attachment of property in certain judgments against Iraq, the lapse of statutory authorities for the payment of bonuses, special pays, and similar benefits for members of the uniformed services, and for other purposes.

H. Con. Res. 279. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

TAX REBATE RELIEF

(Mr. BISHOP of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is all too rare when we in the majority and the President arrive at a consensus. So it's welcome news that we agree on relief Americans need in today's economy should come in the form of a stimulus bill. Targeted tax breaks and short-term measures to help the middle class can salvage our economy from plummeting home values, savings and market conditions.

We should insist upon including expanded unemployment benefits and food stamps, in addition to tax rebates. These benefits will be spent immediately by those who need our help most in this economy.

In fact, for every dollar spent by the government on food stamps, there is a \$1.60 return to the economy; and for every dollar spent on unemployment benefits, the return is \$1.90.

The tax rebate should be targeted to the middle class and include those low-income workers who didn't earn enough to pay income taxes but still pay into Medicare and Social Security through payroll taxes withheld from their paychecks.

This is the prescription middle-class Americans need to cure the ills of today's economy. Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to do their part to help us towards that end.

TRIBUTE TO HRANT DINK

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I am rising today to recognize the 1-year anniversary of the brutal murder of Hrant Dink, the newspaper editor and leading figure in the Armenian genocide debate in Turkey.

On January 19, 2007, freedom of speech suffered a setback as Dink was shot outside his office in Istanbul. As a Turkish citizen of Armenian descent, Dink had gained notoriety in Turkish society for the court cases brought against him in which he faced jail time for simply talking of the Armenian genocide.

While many will give speeches to remember Hrant Dink, the most meaningful tribute would be a rescinding of article 301 of the Turkish penal code that outlaws "insults to Turkishness."

Under this law, journalists like Dink and Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk continue to be persecuted by draconian laws that seek to stifle debate or discussion on matters that could be seen as insulting to Turkish identity. It is

my sincere hope that the Turkish government will use this occasion to reflect upon this restrictive article and rescind it before it does more harm.

UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS AND THEIR NUMBER ONE RANKING

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, I was a freshman member of the Tennessee State Senate, and on that occasion, the University of Memphis now, then Memphis State University, became number one in the country in basketball. It was the first time that we had ever had a number one ranking, and I got up on the floor of the Tennessee Senate and spoke proudly about my basketball team and their number one ranking. That night, my Tigers lost, and they were no longer number one.

Well, today, 25 years later and a freshman Member in the United States House of Representatives, the University of Memphis is again the number one basketball team in the country. Should I talk about them? Not.

IN RECOGNITION OF MONGOLIAN AMBASSADOR RAVDAN BOLD

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Ravdan Bold, Ambassador of Mongolia to the United States. Ambassador Bold is retiring as Mongolia's emissary to the United States, and I want to thank him for his service on behalf of the Mongolian people.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and co-chair of the Mongolia Caucus, I've had the pleasure of getting to know Ambassador Bold over the past few years. During his tenure, America celebrated the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our countries. He is an honest and capable public servant whose work here in Washington has been vital to the growth of democracy in Mongolia.

Mongolia remains a strong and strategic partner of the United States. Mongolian troops proudly serve in Liberia, Afghanistan, Kosovo and Iraq. I'm particularly grateful for Mongolia's continued support of our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan as the central front in the larger global war on terrorism, and I look forward to working with the future ambassador to strengthen this partnership.

I wish Ambassador Bold; his wife, Oyuun; his two daughters, Buyandelger and Buyanjargal, all the best in the years to come.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS NEEDS TO INCLUDE A MORATORIUM ON HOME FORECLOSURES

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was here on the floor last week reminding my colleagues as my intention is to continue to emphasize those who have been hurt by the economic recession, the downtrend in our financial markets, that they are, in fact, real people. So, in the course of visiting my district and around the country, we have met individuals who are suffering.

Today, I met an Iraqi veteran whose parents have built their home brick by brick, and now they find that their homestead, these senior citizens, their son in Iraq, is having their house foreclosed on.

I met an elderly woman, a widow, whose husband was deceased 7 years ago. She's trying to pay the costliness of the heating oil and now is being called by her bank that her home, because of her delinquent payments, will be foreclosed on.

It is imperative I believe that an economic stimulus package include a moratorium on foreclosures in order to ensure that those individuals can reconstruct their loans. Mr. Speaker, it is imperative it is a stimulus to help people keep their homes.

□ 1915

AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-90)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of the proposed Agreement for Cooperation between the United States of America and the Republic of Turkey Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the "Agreement") together with a copy of the unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) and of my approval of the proposed Agreement and determination that the proposed Agreement will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. The Secretary of State will submit the classified NPAS and accompanying annexes separately in appropriate secure channels.

The Agreement was signed on July 26, 2000, and President Clinton approved and authorized execution and made the determinations required by section 123 b. of the Act (Presidential Determination 2000-26, 65 FR 44403 (July 18, 2000)). However, immediately after signature, U.S. agencies received information that called into question the conclusions that had been drawn in the required NPAS and the original classified annex, specifically, information implicating Turkish private entities in certain activities directly relating to nuclear proliferation. Consequently, the Agreement was not submitted to the Congress and the executive branch undertook a review of the NPAS evaluation.

My Administration has completed the NPAS review as well as an evaluation of actions taken by the Turkish government to address the proliferation activities of certain Turkish entities (once officials of the U.S. Government brought them to the Turkish government's attention). The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Energy, and the members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission are confident that the pertinent issues have been sufficiently resolved and that there is a sufficient basis (as set forth in the classified annexes, which will be transmitted separately by the Secretary of State) to proceed with congressional review of the Agreement and, if legislation is not enacted to disapprove it, to bring the Agreement into force.

In my judgment, entry into force of the Agreement will serve as a strong incentive for Turkey to continue its support for nonproliferation objectives and enact future sound nonproliferation policies and practices. It will also promote closer political and economic ties with a NATO ally, and provide the necessary legal framework for U.S. industry to make nuclear exports to Turkey's planned civil nuclear sector.

This transmittal shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both section 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediate consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the period of 30 days of continuous session provided for in section 123 b., the period of 60 days of continuous session provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 22, 2008.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

COMMUNIST CHINA'S TOXIC EXPORTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, what do toys, pet food, jewelry, toothpaste, lipstick, and glazed pottery have in common? Well, if these products are from China, it's toxic chemical poisoning.

In 2007, millions of toys were imported to the United States from the People's Republic of China, and then they were recalled after it was discovered that they contained high amounts of lead paint. Mr. Speaker, one of those was Thomas the Tank Engine, and here is a photograph of it. It was one of many of the millions of toys recalled; 1.5 million of these toys were recalled because they were made in China and had lead in them, in the paint that covered these toys.

Of course, everyone knows that lead poisoning can cause serious problems for children, including learning disabilities, kidney failure, irreversible brain damage, and anemia. Here in the United States, the leading cause of lead poisoning in children used to be old paint, but U.S. manufacturers stopped using this toxic ingredient over 30 years ago. But despite this ban on U.S. manufacturers, China consistently failed to maintain the same level of concern over the health and safety of consumers in the United States that it sells products to.

In 2006, the United States imported billions of dollars worth of toys, dolls, and games from China. That was approximately 85 percent of the United States' total imports of these products worldwide. And yet, between January and December of last year, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled 17 million Chinese toys, all due to excessive amounts of lead. Another 10 million Chinese toys were recalled last year due to other dangerous manufacturing defects like loose magnets, toxic chemicals on beads, and items that are burn hazards.

Also, Mr. Speaker, during that same period, the FDA recalled 150 pet brand foods from China which were believed to cause the deaths of hundreds of pets in the United States; it seems they contained fertilizer. So, Chinese products contain lead in their exported toys for tots to Americans and contain fertilizer in pet foods that kill our dogs. But that's not all, however. The FDA has also recalled tires, lunch boxes, toothpaste that had antifreeze in it, and fake drugs due to consumer safety and health concerns. This is all from products from China. And in all, Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of the recalls issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission last year involved Chinese products. This kind of disregard for the well-being of America's consumers is not acceptable and should not be tolerated by our government.

American companies buy these products because they're cheap. You see, a

person in China gets paid about 67 cents an hour. Even illegals in this country won't work for that. And since the 1980s, China has been privileged to receive most-favored-nation treatment from the United States.

China is the second largest U.S. trading partner, but most of the billion dollars in trade goes to China. It's a one-way street. It's a free-trade street for China, and it's all for cheap, dangerous products made with cheap, sweatshop labor in China.

As the second largest U.S. trading partner, China must conform to the standards of safety that are required of American companies for the well-being of Americans. Even better, why don't American companies buy goods that are manufactured in the United States?

And lastly, Mr. Speaker, Chinese manufacturing companies are notorious polluters of their own environment.

It's time for a day of reckoning with cheap, dangerous communist Chinese products. We hear talk of free trade, but what we need is fair trade with China, something that's fair to American consumers. Americans should look to see if the products they buy are made in China. If so, they should ignore those products and look for an item made in the United States. What a novel idea.

And that's just the way it is.

REDEPLOY OUR TROOPS OUT OF IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this Thursday night, I will join many of my constituents at the 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards hosted by the Marin County Human Rights Commission in San Rafael, California.

Ten of my constituents, including four high school seniors, will receive awards for the many, many contributions they have made to our community, and I would like to name a few of them. Two doctors, Paul Cohen and Alicia Suski, will be honored for developing a partnership to provide medical and legal services to low-income residents. An educator, Whitney Hoyt, will be honored for protecting the rights of gay students. A high school senior, Joanna Sitzmann, will be recognized for her work with a therapeutic horseback riding program for people with disabilities. Another student, Morgan Green, will be cited for helping to raise money for the victims of the crisis in Darfur. And another high school senior, Allison Franklin, will be honored for working with disadvantaged youngsters, including those participating in the Marin Special Olympics.

I am really proud of these wonderful constituents, constituents who are serving others. I know there are millions of other Americans just like

them, and they can be found in every single congressional district. They represent the true face of America, the America that has compassion for the people of the world, who want the world to be a better place for all of us.

But today, the world has a very different picture of America, Mr. Speaker. The people of the world see us through the lens of the occupation of Iraq, Abu Ghraib, and Guantanamo. They hear about torture, waterboarding, and the reckless activities of the Blackwater military contracts.

In addition to the very real human rights issues that these problems raise, they have made it much harder for us to win the public relations battle against the terrorists. And in the long run, that public relations battle, along with other elements of so-called "soft power," are just as important, if not more important, than any military battle that we will fight in Iraq.

Even Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has recognized this. In a speech he gave 2 months ago, Secretary Gates said, and I quote, "One of the more important lessons of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is that military success is not sufficient to win. Economic development, institution building, and rule of law, promoting internal reconciliation, good governance, providing basic services to the people, and strategic communications are essential ingredients for long-term success." He also called for an increase in spending on the soft power components of national security. These include diplomacy, foreign assistance, and economic reconstruction and development.

I agree with Secretary Gates about all of this, but this appears to be one more example of our leaders not backing up their words with actions. This administration has relied solely upon military power to achieve its objectives. It hasn't believed in diplomacy in the first place, or of the other elements of soft power.

Our leaders think they can bomb and shoot their way to a more democratic and peaceful world, and they've been proven wrong over and over again. In their latest testimony before the House, our generals have told us that our occupation of Iraq may last until the year 2020. And even Secretary Gates has undermined his own lofty rhetoric about diplomacy by saying that a 50-year occupation would be just fine with him.

The only way to restore our moral leadership and our ability to influence events is to responsibly redeploy our troops out of Iraq. That would allow the regional and international diplomacy needed to end the conflict to begin. It is up to Congress to use its power of the purse to make this happen. The administration will never do it. Our leaders offer us high-minded speeches about the rule of law and diplomacy, but all they give us are bloodshed and occupation. And Mr. Speaker, it must stop.

INCREASED BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, a tragic incident took place along our Nation's southern border. On January 20, 2008, Border Patrol Agent Luis Aguilar was attempting to disable the vehicles of two suspected smugglers who entered this country illegally at the Southern California border. Agent Aguilar was struck and killed by one of the vehicles as it fled back to Mexico.

The tragic death of this border agent highlights the need for our government to get serious about defending our borders. As a key step in addressing this need, I recently introduced H.R. 4987, Defense By Date Certain Act. This legislation would mandate and fully fund the completion of a double-layered fence at designated locations on our southern border by June 30, 2009.

□ 1930

The fence alone cannot solve the illegal immigration crises, but it is an important step in securing our borders and regaining control of our Nation's sovereignty. The chaos and violence along our southern border is putting the lives of U.S. citizens and law enforcement officers at risk. Our Nation can no longer allow smugglers to cross our borders illegally, ignore our laws, carry guns, intimidate, and even murder our border agents.

Mr. Speaker, as Members of the House are well aware, two other victims of violence on our southern border have now served more than a year in Federal prison. Agents Ramos and Compean entered Federal prison on January 17, 2007, and are serving 11- and 12-year prison sentences. These agents were convicted in March of 2006 for shooting a Mexican drug smuggler who brought 743 pounds of marijuana across our border into Texas. Ramos and Compean were doing their duty to protect the American people from an illegal alien drug smuggler.

There is bipartisan agreement among Members of Congress that the overzealous prosecution of these agents, and their excessive prison sentences, is a tremendous miscarriage of justice. While our calls for a pardon have gone unanswered, these agents continue to languish in Federal prison away from their families and loved ones.

Again I call on Chairman JOHN CONYERS to schedule a hearing of the House Judiciary Committee to fully examine this case. I am hopeful that the committee will review the justification for the indictment of these agents, which I sincerely believe have no justification, and how this U.S. Attorney's Office proceeded in this case.

Mr. Speaker, when those who bravely defend our borders are prosecuted, it sends a terrible message to illegal aliens and drug smugglers. Our southern borders are threatened, and it is

time for our government to start defending its citizens from these who will cross our borders illegally and threaten the American people.

MORPHING CAMPAIGN FINANCE, GOVERNANCE, AND PERSONAL AGGRANDIZEMENT IN A TANGLED WEB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, while the U.S. economy retrenches, the front page of the Wall Street Journal today reports that former President Bill Clinton could "get a \$20 million payout from a politically sensitive partnership tie to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, made possible by his high profile business relationship with the investment firm of billionaire friend Ron Burkle.

The last time I looked, Dubai is not part of the United States and it is not a democracy.

As I read this article by John Emshwiller, I thought to myself, has any President in modern history, but for Jimmy Carter, not used the White House to cash in upon retirement? Further, has any modern President not used their White House connections to build themselves pyramid monuments upon leaving office in the form of presidential libraries where they milk their presidential contacts for millions and millions of dollars? How sad is it that former President George Bush and former President Bill Clinton took huge sums of money from foreign interests like Saudi Arabia to build their presidential libraries? Contrast this to our Nation's Founders, who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honors to the cause of freedom. Now it appears all is for sale.

Today's story is but another example of where our Nation's highest elected officials are morphing campaign finance, governance, and their own personal aggrandizement in a tangled web. It raises to the highest levels the issue of influence peddling and what was done during those White House years to yield such super human rewards.

I lament the condition in which we find our national politics. Until the American people hear and understand what is happening, nothing will change. It will only worsen. Look at the disgraceful sums of money being raised by presidential candidates in both political parties and, of course, waiting in the wings the latest batch of billionaire contenders who are just ready to put their oars in the water too.

One of America's greatest President's was John Quincy Adams. After John Quincy Adams left the presidency, he did not immediately head out onto the lecture circuit. He did not sell his services to a rich foreign power. He did not set out to enrich himself on the fame that he had acquired by virtue of his

service to the Nation. No, it was a different day and time. John Quincy Adams, after leaving the presidency, came back to Washington as a Member of this U.S. House of Representatives. To this day, he is the only President who did. He finished his life here, dying on the second floor of this Capitol. John Quincy Adams, instead of lining his own pockets, started his vaunted "second political career" by fighting against slave power. He made it the cause of his lifetime.

Just as money power dominates the national political preoccupation today, so slave power dominated political life in the United States in the first half of the 19th century. It was as deeply entrenched as the neoliberal model of international trade is today.

When Adams was President, Members from the Deep South had enacted a "gag rule" here in the People's House so that anti-slavery petitions would be summarily rejected, as if this parliamentary maneuvering could stop the discussion about slavery and the slow march to justice.

Professor William Lee Miller has written about John Quincy Adams's commitment to fighting slave power here in Congress, a battle that some historians have described as the "Pearl Harbor of the slave controversy." John Quincy Adams refused to give up the fight until at last the Nation had heard the message of the petitioners: that slavery was inimical to the American ideal, an assault on the Constitution, and a stain on the Nation's conscience.

America must cleanse our political system today of the stains that even Presidents of the United States create as they enrich themselves. The Wall Street Journal article describes how Mr. Clinton is a partner of the Yucaipa Global Partnership Fund, which raised several hundred billion dollars from a range of investors. Who were these investors? How did any of them relate to the policies of the Clinton administration? These private funds do not have to disclose their activities as a normal business; so how do the American people know?

The director of this fund is Mr. Ron Burkle, a major fundraiser and backer of the Clintons. To mix fundraising, undisclosed business interests, and the presidency is a combustible mix. The American people have a right to know.

The article goes on to relate how Rudy Giuliani's consulting firm has interests in the government of Qatar. What are those interests? And how does he seek to personally benefit if elected President?

Mr. Speaker, the American people want Washington to clean up its act. As the presidential races proceed this year, isn't it high time that the campaign finance reform question be a top one in all the debates? John Quincy Adams would not recognize the Republic as it stands today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

VACATING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, permission for a 5-minute Special Order speech for the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is vacated.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING HRANT DINK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Turkish Armenian journalist Hrant Dink. One year ago, Hrant Dink was brutally gunned down outside his office in Istanbul, Turkey by a self-proclaimed Turkish nationalist. The world lost a great human rights advocate and his tragic death was an attack on democratic ideals and values.

Dink was first charged with treason for upholding an irrefutable historical fact about the Armenian Genocide. He was convicted for his writings in 2005 for violating article 301, a law that makes it a crime to "insult" the Turkish state. This law continues today to be used to persecute, prosecute, and incarcerate those who attempt to exercise their universal human right of freedom of speech.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey uses intimidation to deny its citizens their right to freedom of expression. It lobbies for its so-called rightful role in the international community and a place in the European Union. Yet it does not live up to democratic principles and standards.

Hrant Dink is not the only one who has suffered from the consequences of this Turkish penal law. Anyone who refers to the events of 1915 for what they were, genocide, is targeted within Turkey. In addition, our own country is seeing the effects of this denial as Turkey continues to oppose human rights legislation condemning the Armenian Genocide here in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I remain deeply concerned with Turkey's failure to adopt standards and practices of both domestic and international conduct that would reverse and overturn the climate of intolerance, prejudice, and repression, as exemplified by article 301 of the Turkish penal code. It was this penal code that precipitated Mr. Dink's murder.

Hrant Dink was guilty of nothing more than having the courage to defend freedom of the press and promote human rights and tolerance in Turkey. He was a man of conviction and principle who believed in democratic ideals and peaceful change. I urge Turkey to honor his name and repeal article 301.

SCHIP VETO OVERRIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, a new report by the Joint Economic Committee shows that a million more children a year may need public health insurance due to worsening economic conditions, even apart from the growing trend in public coverage.

If history is any guide, an economic downturn will lead to substantial increases in the demand for children's health and Medicaid, including some 70,000 additional children in each year of a downturn in my home State of New York.

Yet the administration is proposing a range of cutbacks to these programs that will make the problem even more severe. And State budgets are already strained by the weak national economy and the growing housing crisis.

This is a perfect economic storm that can be avoided if Congress votes today or tomorrow to override the President's veto of legislation that would bring health care to 10 million children in need.

Over the next 5 years, our bill would preserve coverage for the more than 6 million children currently covered by children's health care and extend coverage to nearly 4 million children who are currently uninsured. Overriding the President's veto of SCHIP reauthorization would guarantee sufficient funding levels for the Children's Health Program to serve future enrollment needs. Additional Medicaid assistance to the States would also provide shelter from the coming economic storm. Increasing the Federal Medicaid match percentage to the States as part of a stimulus package would help ease the blow of the economic slowdown on our children, families, and States.

I urge my colleagues to override the President's veto of children's health care tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. YARMUTH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TIAHRT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ROE V. WADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, this is the 35th anniversary of Roe versus Wade, and tonight I would like to recognize Congressman CHRIS SMITH, who has been a committed champion to protect the unborn for as long as he has remained a Member of this body. So I yield now to Congressman SMITH.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today, 35 years after the infamous Supreme Court decisions legalizing abortion on demand throughout pregnancy, we mourn the estimated 50 million innocent girls and boys whose lives were cut off by abortion, a staggering loss of children's lives, equal to six times the total number of all people, young and old, living in my home State of New Jersey.

Someday, Mr. Speaker, future generations of Americans will look back on us and wonder how and why such a rich and seemingly enlightened society, so blessed and endowed with the capacity to protect and enhance vulnerable human life, could have instead so aggressively promoted death to children and the exploitation of women by abortion. They will note with keen sadness that some of our most prominent politicians and media icons often spoke of human and civil rights, while precluding virtually all protection to the most persecuted minority in the world today: unborn children.

On Sunday, Senator BARAK OBAMA criticized Americans for both our moral deficit and what he called our "empathy deficit" and called upon us to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers.

□ 1945

Can Senator OBAMA not see, appreciate or understand that the abortion culture that he and others so assiduously promote lacks all empathy for unborn children, be they black, white, Latino or Asian, and is at best profoundly misguided when it comes to their mothers? Why does dismembering a child with sharp knives, pulverizing a child with powerful suction devices more powerful than 20 to 30 times the average cleaning machine, vacuum machine, or chemically poisoning a baby with any number of toxic chemicals fail to elicit so much as a scintilla of

empathy, moral outrage, mercy or compassion by America's liberal elite?

Abortion destroys the very life of our "brothers and sisters," and the proabortion movement is the quintessential example of an "empathy deficit."

Mr. Speaker, we need to be blunt. Abortion is violence against children. It is extreme child abuse. To strip away the euphemism, it is cruelty to children. Sadly, abortion is not only legal until birth, but the daily perpetrators of this terrible injustice are massively subsidized by liberal politicians who enrich the abortion industry with taxpayer funds.

In 2008, the largest abortion provider in the Nation, Planned Parenthood, continued to receive huge amounts of taxpayer funds. Some time ago on the floor, Mr. Speaker, I asked Americans, I asked my colleagues, and suggested it was time to take a second look at Planned Parenthood, "Child Abuse, Incorporated." Every year they abort over 265,000 children in their clinics, a huge and staggering, stunning number of child deaths. And yet they get massive amounts of Federal funds and local funds.

Mr. Speaker, there are at least two victims in every abortion. It is time to recognize and accept the inconvenient truth that abortion exploits women.

Dr. Alveda King, niece of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, has had two abortions. Today she has joined the growing coalition of women who deeply regret their abortions and are part of a group called Silent No More. Out of deep personal pain and compassion for others, they challenge us to respect, protect and tangibly love both mother and the child. The women of Silent No More give post-abortive women a safe place to grieve and a road map to reconciliation. And to society at large, these brave women compel us to rethink and reassess the chief sophistry of the abortion culture. Reflecting on their famous uncle's speech, the "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. Alveda King asks us, "How can the 'Dream' survive if we murder the children?"

Finally, 35 years after Roe, the pro-life ranks today have swelled with abortion survivors, women who tell their stories with great bravery and candor. I remember hearing a woman right outside of the Supreme Court who, while she was actually getting the abortion, said to the doctor, she was only partially sedated, said, "It is trying to move." She said she wanted to get up off of that table and run out the door, and the nurses practically screamed at her and said, "It is too late. The abortion is already underway." So many others who have actually seen the child after being aborted, very often they whisk the baby away so that there is no contact made, who then tell the story of the nightmares. Again, the Silent No More campaign helps these women reconnect and find reconciliation and hope for their shattered lives.

Today, at the March for Life, the ranks of the pro-life movement was filled with young people. I have gone to that march each year for 35 years. I have never seen more young people speaking out passionately, all ethnicities represented, young boys and young girls, teenagers and young adults, who say we are going to be, and are, the pro-life generation. And they have certainly reason to react that way. Every third member of their generation has died from abortion.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I hope this Congress takes a long and hard second look at the glib euphemisms that are used to promote abortion, the marketing strategies, the polls that have driven this terrible issue forward, and strip it all away. Look at the deed itself: chemical poisoning, dismemberment, partial-birth abortion awakened at least some Members to the cruelty of abortion. Connect the dots. Every method is an act of violence. And again, there are two victims in every abortion, mother and child.

I truly believe that united in prayer, united in fasting, and with a lot of hard work, just like the abolitionists of old, who said that you cannot discount the humanity of people because of the color of their skin, well, the dependency or the immaturity of a child also should not become a disqualifier. America's dark night of child slaughter will some day, and some day soon, Mr. Speaker, come to an end.

I yield back to Mr. FRANKS and thank him for his extraordinary leadership on this human rights issue.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to Mr. WALBERG.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and good friend from Arizona for the opportunity to speak tonight. I just came back from Iraq and Afghanistan this past week, and on the way back from Kabul to the airport, I looked out of our window of the vehicle we were riding in and I saw two young children running alongside the vehicle, as children will do, having fun together. They were racing each other and racing our vehicle. I looked in their eyes, and I saw nothing but what I would see in normal little children's eyes having fun, except these two young children had smudged faces and tattered clothes that they were playing in, in a war zone. And I thought to myself, these two little children could be just like a number of children we have read about, through the barbarism of individuals for a particular philosophy would have ammunitions strapped to them, and then, in a barbaric, gruesome way, their lives taken.

On this day, the 35th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, we live in a civilized country, well educated, cleaned up, sanitized, and yet, because of a lie, there are innocent women, and indeed birth fathers, as well, who are caught in a lie and a trap that causes them to, in a sanitized way to some degree, yet the ultimate outcome is the same, to snuff out innocent lives for no reason

that justifies that taking place. Today marks the 35th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Since that time, nearly 50 million abortions have been performed. That is a staggering number which intensifies when we recognize each abortion consists of one innocent life snuffed out and at least one other life that is wounded.

While I respect the fact that others may disagree, I believe that human life begins at conception. That means that almost 50 million lives have been extinguished since 1973. Because of Roe v. Wade, we have learned that a reckless majority on the Supreme Court can visit untold destruction and pain on us as a Nation if they search for results in individual cases that are outside the scope and text of the history of the Constitution.

We have learned that the activist justices can find "penumbras, formed by emanations" in the Bill of Rights as a basis for establishing new constitutional rights that are not found anywhere in the text or history of the Constitution, as Justice Douglas ridiculously claimed in the case of Griswold v. Connecticut, a precedent for Roe v. Wade.

Sadly, unelected activist judges with lifetime appointments continue to make law rather than to apply the law as it is written. As elected officials, it is our right to make law, and it certainly is not the right of judges and justices to do so. Rather, they must follow the law as we, the accountable decision makers, have written it.

We have engaged in a long struggle and must continue in that struggle to ensure that the Supreme Court and our lower Federal courts are stocked with people who abide by the text and the history of the Constitution instead of acting as super-legislators in making new law.

Mr. Speaker, today, on the 35th anniversary of that tragic ruling, my heart is grieved; yet, it is heartened. Though we mourn for lives that could have been, we see significant progress in the fight to defend human life. Just today, a bipartisan majority in the Michigan Senate voted to ban partial birth abortion. Abortions have declined by nearly 20 percent in the past 15 years, and every year Americans have become increasingly pro-life. I, along with millions of Americans, remain committed to saving the unborn and upholding the right to life our Nation was founded upon. Perhaps the tide is finally turning.

I also call, Mr. Speaker, for an all-out effort of compassion for the women and the birth fathers who have been caught in the lie of abortion and have had their lives altered. A loving God offers forgiveness and hope and healing, and we, His people, can offer no less.

I pledge to continue to work every day to bring back the sanctity of life to our Nation. And it is heartening to stand here with my colleagues tonight and with hundreds of thousands of individuals today on the Mall and speak for life.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for leading this hour and for allowing me to be with him tonight and for giving me this time.

I think my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, know that my prior career, my profession before becoming a Member of Congress 5½ years ago was I practiced medicine, and not just as a medical doctor, but as an OB/GYN specialist. In that specialty for 26 years, I delivered over 5,200 babies during that time. I am very proud to say that I performed no abortions. But I think it is important for our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, and for men and women across this country to understand how this Roe v. Wade came about 35 years ago in 1973.

Prior to that, abortion in many States was illegal. It could not be performed. In some instances, yes, it was true that women would have what is known as a criminal abortion done, and sometimes with very devastating consequences to the woman. If the abortion was done by a doctor with skills, surgical skills, there probably were no complications, other than destroying that human life, that little human life. But if the abortion was performed in an unprofessional, botched manner, then the life not only of the fetus but also of the woman was at stake.

When I was an intern at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, back in those days in the late 1960s, 1969, 1970, yes, there occasionally was a patient on the ward suffering from septic shock. And in one instance I very vividly remember that that patient, that mother who had had an abortion done and the complications thereof, infection set in and she died. And these cases were presented across the country to the Supreme Court eventually, basically, in Roe v. Wade. And then all of a sudden the Supreme Court said that no State, no State could proscribe abortion.

That is what we got to in 1973. And since that time, of course, as my colleague from Michigan just mentioned, something like 48 million lives have been destroyed in the abortion process, in that so-called safe, legal process, where the procedures are done by licensed physicians, and they are done under certain circumstances, maybe in a hospital with anesthesia, and it is very safe and that no mothers die.

Well, some mothers do die. But without question, some 48 million little children, potential Members of Congress in fact, lost their lives by this abortion procedure. And that is why I am so proud to be here tonight to join with my colleagues, with the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, Mr. FRANKS, Mr. DAVIS, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LAMBORN and others to talk about this issue.

□ 2000

Each of us will have a little bit of time. But I am very grateful to be

standing here tonight to know that today on the Mall, right here at the Capitol, we had so many come. I don't know how many thousands of families came. We had something like 12 or 14 Members of Congress speak on behalf of life, the life of the infant, the life of the fetus. This is a very proud day, and it is a very proud evening too for us to stand here for the sanctity of life.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to focus on a couple of charts that I have got. The first one, if my colleagues will look, basically says this. This is a quote from a very important person, and I will mention her in just a minute. "Abortion, at any point, was wrong. It was so clear. Painfully clear." That ends the quote. This is from Norma McCorvey, better known as Jane Roe from *Roe v. Wade*. In other words, she was the plaintiff.

Mrs. McCorvey wanted to have an abortion in a State that didn't allow it, so she was the plaintiff. This quote is taken from her book, "Won by Love" by Norma McCorvey, and she is now a pro-life advocate. She didn't have that abortion, because by the time *Roe v. Wade* was passed, she had gone on and had that little girl, who is in her mid-thirties now. Mrs. McCorvey, Norma, is also the proud grandmother of two children. Thank God that she didn't have that abortion.

Listen to what Susan B. Anthony, this is way long, many years ago, in another century, said even before this issue came up. "Abortion is a reflection of our society's failure to meet the needs of women. We are dedicated to systematically eliminating the root causes that drive women to abortion." That is a quote from Susan B. Anthony.

What I want to point out is that many States now, many States, including my own State of Georgia, I am very proud that we have passed, as this poster shows, a "woman's right to know law," required not just in Georgia, but in 23 States, that women who seek abortions be fully informed about relevant issues such as, the first bullet point, medical risk of abortion; the possible detrimental psychological effects of an abortion; a father's legal responsibility in State laws for paternal child support; and medical assistance benefits may be available to prenatal care, childbirth, and neonatal care.

Mr. Speaker, the Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, that we just in the last month reauthorized for an additional 18 months, does include prenatal care so that women are not forced for financial reasons to terminate a pregnancy. So this is really what Susan B. Anthony was talking about so many years ago.

What we are seeing as a result of that, in my last chart that I want to present, is that over these 35 years, we are seeing a gradual and actually dramatic drop in the number of abortions per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44. Those women who are most fertile, that peaked at 29 per 1,000 women that age

back in 1979. Now the latest statistics in 2005, that number has dropped down to something like 19.4. So we are making great progress.

The point that I want to make in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, is we don't need to continue to destroy life. We need to inform women. We need to inform women of their choices, the alternatives to destroying a human life, which in almost every instance they are opposed to. But they are uninformed, they are frightened, they are scared, they are concerned about raising a child as a single parent. But if they are given the opportunity maybe to place that child for adoption, if they know there is financial help available, if they know that there are counselors who want to work with them that help them if they decide to have their baby and be a single parent, if that is the case, these are the things that we need to be concentrating on, Mr. Speaker.

So as I conclude, I just want to say to the gentleman from Arizona, I thank him for giving all of us an opportunity tonight to speak on this hugely important issue. Let's stand for the rights of the unborn. Let's not be so concerned about some person who is already here, man or woman, about their property rights guaranteed under the 14th Amendment. Let's think about what we said in our Declaration of Independence and think about unalienable rights, such as the right to life. Let's think about what is in the Charter of the United Nations, that every member nation is bound to abide by, and that is the sanctity of life. And, last but not least, what God says in both the New and the Old Testament, thou shalt not kill; you shall not take another's life. That is why we stand here tonight, to bring that to our Members.

I yield back to the gentleman from Arizona, and thank him for allowing me to be part of this.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the distinguished gentleman for his compelling words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Tennessee, Mr. DAVID DAVIS.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. FRANKS, thank you for your leadership on this very important issue.

To many of us across this great land of America, life is an emotional issue. To many of us, it is a Biblical issue. The Bible actually tells us that we are knit together in our mother's womb.

Let's go back and just think about a day that we lost a lot of Americans. Let's go back to September 11th, 2001. If you are listening across this great land, just think back how you felt on September 11th when you learned that 3,000 Americans had been killed. Do you remember where you were? Do you remember how you felt? It was 3,000 Americans killed that day. I know exactly where I was and I know how I felt.

Now, where were you on September 12th, September the 13th, September the 14th, September the 15th? Those

days, almost 4,000 Americans were killed, and every day subsequent. We are losing Americans to the tune of almost 4,000 Americans a day.

Ronald Reagan once said "abortion is only advocated by persons who have themselves been born." His pro-life position was not limited to the beginning of life issues, but extended all the way to natural death. It is clear that Reagan would have stood against pro-assisted suicide and euthanasia laws. In 1988, he declared "The right to life belongs equally to babies in the womb, babies born handicapped and the elderly and the infirm."

In the years since our Supreme Court ruled on *Roe v. Wade* and declared abortion a constitutional right, the assault Mother Theresa rightly called the "war against the child" has claimed nearly 50 million Americans, 1.2 million every year, and, yes, almost 4,000 babies every day.

Pro-life policies such as parental consent and waiting periods enjoy tremendous public support, 82 percent and 74 percent respectively. Washington, this Congress, should deny hundreds of millions of dollars to Planned Parenthood and abortion centers that promote and perform abortions here and abroad. The unborn child has the right to life, and that right should not be taken away.

Roe v. Wade was poorly conceived and morally wrong. This decision should be overturned. Life begins at conception. An unborn baby should share the birthright of all Americans, the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentleman for his very moving words. I would now yield to Mr. LAMBORN from Colorado.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for putting this time together and for recognizing me.

Mr. Speaker, today marks the 35th anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion in the United States. Elective abortion, a tragic practice, is the most common medical procedure performed in the United States. Let me repeat: Abortion is the most common medical procedure performed in the United States, and is perpetuated by a perverse logic that the life of an unplanned child is somehow not of the same value as that of any other child.

A recent study published by the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry in 2006 indicates that women who have had an abortion have a much higher incidence of mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, suicidal behaviors and substance abuse. Abortion can also cause physical side effects, such as reduced fertility, hemorrhaging, and even death.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize pregnancy care centers around the country, who defend the lives of the unborn and protect the physical and psychological health of American

women who find themselves in unplanned pregnancies every year. Through the support of selfless men and women devoted to a culture of life, these care centers are able to give concrete, practical assistance to women, from pregnancy testing to prenatal vitamins, ultrasound imaging and infant supplies.

Tragically, many women in the United States are told and believe abortion is the only way. Pregnancy care centers respect these women and their right to know that there are other options. These facilities offer guidance for mothers faced with heart-wrenching decisions. Whether the woman chooses to give the child up for adoption or raise the baby, pregnancy care centers provide counseling, information and support.

Pregnancy care centers across the world have and will continue to reduce abortion rates, save unborn lives, and help women avoid the psychological and physical damages of abortion.

Tonight, I mourn the 50 million American lives cut short by abortion, and pray that God continues to protect and strengthen those touched by this tragic practice. I will be among those working to end it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back to the gentleman.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I would now yield to the very distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for yielding. I also want to thank him for his extraordinary and compassionate and principled and eloquent advocacy of life. The people of Arizona who cherish life are extraordinarily well served by Mr. FRANKS.

I come to this well having enjoyed a day, Mr. Speaker, on the National Mall, where over 100,000 Americans by some estimates gathered in the bitter cold 35 years after a Supreme Court decision, and they gathered for one reason and one reason only, because those Americans cherish the sanctity of life and are unwilling to go quietly into that good night, which is an America that walks away from a belief that every life is sacred.

100,000 people. Not at the podium. Not with the television cameras on them, as some of us were. Not with the accolades of people in a movement who will write on the Internet or write editorials how they approve of our stand. But in the obscurity of a throng of tens of thousands, Americans came. In the dead of winter. It was extraordinary, Mr. Speaker, I must say, and it gives me great hope about this movement.

The sanctity of life is the central axiom of Western civilization. It is, I believe, our commitment to the unalienable right to life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness that split

the atom of the American experiment and has created the freest and most prosperous and most powerful nation in the history of the world. It is because we embrace that ethic that we are endowed by our Creator with the unalienable right to life. And there, 35 years after *Roe v. Wade*, 100,000 Americans are still standing in the cold for that principle.

I rise tonight very humbled to hear the eloquence of my colleagues, but filled with hope after a hurried day in this movement, because I have seen the faces of the foot soldiers of the right to life. I have stood among a throng of young Americans, particularly young women under the age of 30, who are choosing life as never before. In the last 20 years, abortion has declined by more than 20 percent.

□ 2015

I believe, as you could see in those relationships today on the National Mall, it's not just because of political debate, but it's because of moral persuasion. In the last 35 years, I believe in the quiet counsels between mothers and daughters, between grandmothers and granddaughters, the truth about abortion is being told.

Life is winning in America.

I rise tonight simply, Mr. Speaker, to speak a little out of turn, and not just to your chair, but maybe to those that are looking in tonight and to say thank you for standing for life. Your efforts on behalf of the unborn are not in vain, and I do believe in our lifetime, if we will exercise the faith and perseverance and compassion and civility that was in evidence on the National Mall today, we will see *Roe v. Wade* collapse like the Berlin Wall. It will collapse finally and at last on that day when people on both sides of the debate don't want it there anymore.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I just thank the gentleman so much for his moving words.

Now I yield to the gentleman from Iowa, Congressman KING.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for organizing this Special Order tonight on this day that culminates a long period of time here in Washington across America where we have gathered together to march and to speak and to appeal and to pray for the end of this holocaust of abortion in America.

I have enjoyed those experiences that I have been able to share with my pro-life colleagues. As I went to the mass last night in the basilica and looked out across that sea of faces, more than 10,000 strong on the ground floor of that magnificent cathedral up on the hill in northeast Washington, realizing that there are 10,000 people in the main floor and another 5,000 in the basement, 15 to 16,000, many young people, who have done the pilgrimage from all across America, gotten on a bus and ridden for hours, maybe 18 or 20 or more hours to get here. They will go to the service, and they came to the

march, the march for life today on The Mall in the cold and in the drizzle. They got back on the bus, some of them without even getting a chance to get warm, and headed back to their homes again. Those are people with conviction. Those are people that understand the two simple and basic questions that are before us here.

The first question is, and so when I ask many high school students in public auditoriums, do you believe in the sanctity of life? Is human life sacred in all of its forms? Is the person sitting next to you, is their life sacred? Is your life sacred? And I get the answer, the universal answer is yes, yes from all of them. I have never had a dissenter.

Then I asked them, there is only one other question you need to ask to determine your position on life, and that is, this sacred life, your life, the person sitting next to you, at what instant did that life begin?

We know that there is only one instant, and that is the instant of conception. But once a person understands and comes to a faithful conviction that human life is sacred, and it begins at the instant of conception, we also will never lose the debate, will never lose our conviction.

I would invite anyone in this Congress to come to this floor and debate me on those two points. I would like to have someone stand up and tell me their life began at some other instant than conception, but it will not happen, because they know that the minute, the instant that anybody over here takes a position other than this sacred life begins at the instant of conception, they have instantly lost the debate.

That's the point that I think all Americans should understand. If they do, this Nation will one day put an end to *Roe v. Wade*.

I am a Catholic, an active Catholic, and I understand the church's teachings on this. I wonder, sometimes about some of the active Catholics in this Congress that do not necessarily reflect the church's teachings. I would love to see, and I would call out an invitation next year for the special mass at the basilica, for the Speaker to join us there in our public prayer for those 50 million lives of those little babies, those little babies that will never have the opportunity to laugh, to love, never be hugged at night, never be kissed at night, not a single night, 50 million babies, 50 million little empty pairs of shoes, 50 million empty baby cribs, 50 million toys never played with, 50 million children, innocent as could be, denied the right to life.

I reflect upon the appointments to the Supreme Court that the President made in this past term, two magnificent appointments to the Supreme Court, and that would be Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito. We got a Supreme Court decision that upheld our ban on partial birth abortion finally, finally a measure that came from this Congress that was not denied by the Court.

When I looked across the sea of faces that filled The Mall as far as the eye could see today by the tens of thousands, and perhaps by the hundreds of thousands, and reflected that they all came here to this city today because the Court injected themselves into a policy decision, not a constitutional decision.

Roe vs. Wade and Doe v. Bolten, both need to be ripped out and both need to be overturned. The two magnificent appointments to the Supreme Court that understand this Constitution to mean what it says and mean what it was understood when it was ratified by our Founders, those appointments are wonderful appointments that move us down the line.

This Constitution will protect life; it will protect marriage. But we must have a Supreme Court that protects the Constitution, that does not amend it with their liberalism and their activism.

Mr. Speaker, the next two appointments to the Supreme Court will be more important than the last two. The next two appointments to the Supreme Court will determine whether we preserve and protect life and whether we preserve and protect marriage. Those two are transformational issues before this Congress. We must stand up for life.

We said goodbye to the elegant statesman and the great lion for life, Henry Hyde, Chairman Henry Hyde. Many of us count him as a friend. I counted him as one of the honors of my life to be able to call him as a friend and someone whom I admired.

The words on the program at Henry Hyde's funeral were a quote from him that say this: "When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgment, I've often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates. You are there alone standing before God, and a terror will rip through your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world, and they will plead for everyone who has been in this movement. They will say to God, 'Spare him because he loved us,' and God will look at you and say not 'Did you succeed?' but 'Did you try?'"

God bless his life and his effort, and may he save the lives of the unborn.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the distinguished gentleman.

I now, Mr. Speaker, yield to the distinguished gentleman, Congressman JORDAN of Ohio.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for his compassion and his commitment to protecting all life, defending those defenseless and his tireless work, and my colleagues as well, who understand that all life is sacred.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, as other speakers have done, I want to thank those thousands of families, thousands of young people, thousands of Americans who gathered today in our Nation's Capital. They too understand that life is precious, life is special, life is sacred and it should be protected in all forms.

I really want to thank them for two things, and I said this today at the rally. First, I want to thank them for having the willingness to engage in the struggle. I learned a long time ago that nothing of meaning, nothing of significance happens by hanging out on the sidelines. You have got to be willing to get in the game step, you have got to be willing to get out of the shadows, step in the game if you are going to make a difference.

That is what Americans were doing today here in our Nation's Capital. I also want to thank them for something else. One of the things that all of us as Members of Congress deal with are those interest groups, those lobbyists who want to come talk to us about all kinds of issues.

I say this every chance I get to talk about the life issue. We have all kinds of lobbyists who want to come talk to us, then to talk to us and influence the way things work here in Congress, the way legislation is passed. The reason they want to talk to us is they and their clients have a financial interest at stake.

But the people who came to our Nation's Capital today, they had nothing to gain financially for doing what they did today. They simply did it because it was the right thing to do. They understand that the truth is the truth, and that life should be protected. I reassured them today. I think we are going to win.

It may take some time, but America always gets it right. Sometimes it takes us a while, but we get it right. We are making progress. We wish it would happen quicker. It has been 35 years now in this struggle. We wish it would happen quicker, but we are getting closer. Someday in this great country, the greatest Nation in history, we will get it right and every single human life will be protected.

I said to many of the folks that I had an opportunity to speak with today, you know, stay positive, because in America things do work out and the truth does prevail in the end.

I told them the story from scripture, and I will finish with this before I yield back to my old friend. The old story from scripture is so appropriate, I think, in that we should stay positive. The story goes, when the Israelites were camped against the Philistines, and every day the Philistine giant would walk out and issue the challenge, Who will fight Goliath? The Israelites' response was, He is so big we can never defeat him.

But David's response was, He is so big I can't miss. That is the attitude we saw on display today in our Nation's

Capital. That's the attitude that has always been a part of the American experience. That is the attitude we need as we go forward. We will win this effort and all life will be protected in this country because you have great people like Mr. FRANKS from Arizona. I appreciate his time tonight in scheduling this hour for us.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentleman so much.

I now yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SALI).

Mr. SALI. Thank you, gentlemen.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to commemorate National Sanctity of Human Life Day. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling in Roe v. Wade, that landmark decision that so drastically altered the landscape.

This month also bears a sad distinction. In January 2008, we passed the tragic mark of 50 million lives that have been lost to abortion since Roe vs. Wade. We cannot help but wonder about the implications of this astonishing statistic. We are all concerned about the shortage of workers in our country. So many of those unborn lives lost due to Roe v. Wade would now be in the workforce.

What about Social Security? Could we not better sustain the vitality of the program if these same workers were paying into the system? These are matters of demographics and economics, yes, but ultimately they are about the most profound issue of all, the simple but indispensable sanctity of human life.

In this very room, from the view of the distinguished Speaker, the center of relief that looks over all of us is an image of Moses, the lawgiver. In the 90th Psalm, Moses wrote "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom . . . May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children."

How many of our children will never be able to number their days because their days will never begin? How many will never know God's splendor in the life He wants for each of us, because they never have been allowed to see the light of day?

As the father of six and the grandfather of six, five of whom have been born and one who remains unborn, yes, a grandfather of six, I have watched the breathtaking miracle of life unfold again and again. Every time I see a small child, I am reminded of the wondrous blessings of a creator who allows us to share in the miracle of creation.

In the words of the poet William Wordsworth, "Heaven lies about us in our infancy." It is essential for all of us to remember that in any abortion there are two victims, the mother and the unborn child.

Mr. Speaker, we have to do a better job of communicating to women in crisis what public and private resources are available to help them, to reach out more vigilantly to these women with a tenderness and a practical compassion our country has shown so often to so many.

I applaud the selfless unsung sacrifices of tens of thousands of our fellow citizens who care for women with crisis pregnancies and to provide spiritual, emotional and material support for them.

It is fitting that we recall the words of our Declaration of Independence, that our creator has endowed all with certain unalienable rights, the first of which is life. The little one in the womb is a person with value independent of his or her mother and deserves the right to that life.

As Members of Congress, we are uniquely positioned to protect the most innocent and vulnerable members of our society, the unborn. If we cannot protect the most innocent and helpless among us, how can we proclaim that we want to provide justice and protection for anyone else?

□ 2030

May those of us who believe in the uniqueness of human personhood, from conception to death, today again resolve never to cease our efforts to make our beloved country not only a beacon of hope but a sanctuary of human dignity. Surely there can be no higher calling for us as public servants of this blessed land.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the distinguished gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, because the end of the hour grows close, I would now come before this body with a sunset memorial. We intend to repeat this from time to time to chronicle the loss of life by abortion on demand in this country.

Mr. Speaker, it is January 22, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun sets today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand just today.

Exactly 35 years today, the tragic judicial fiat called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million children. Mr. Speaker, that is more than 16,000 times the number of innocent lives lost on September 11.

Each of the 4,000 children that we lost today had at least four things in common. They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. And each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Mr. Speaker, those noble heroes lying in frozen silence out in Arlington National Cemetery did not die so America could shred her own Constitution, as well as her own children, by the millions. It seems that we are never quite so eloquent as when we decry the genocidal crimes of past generations, those who allowed their courts to strip the black man and the Jew of their constitutional personhood, and then proceeded to murderously desecrate millions of these, God's own children.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government."

Mr. Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: "No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the Declaration, not the casual notion, but the Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. It is who we are.

And yet today, Mr. Speaker, in this body we fail to honor that commitment. We fail our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 innocent American babies who died without the protection we should have been given them.

And so for them in this moment, Mr. Speaker, without yielding my time, I would invite anyone inclined to join me for a moment of silence on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this discussion tonight presents this Congress and the American people with two destiny questions.

The first that all of us must ask ourselves is very simple: Does abortion really kill a baby? If the answer to that question is "yes," there is a second destiny question that inevitably follows. And it is this, Mr. Speaker: Will we allow ourselves to be dragged by those who have lost their way into a darkness where the light of human compassion has gone out and the predatory survival of the fittest prevails over humanity? Or will America embrace her destiny to lead the world to cherish and honor the God-given miracle of each human life?

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that every baby comes with a message, that God has not yet despaired of mankind. And I mourn that those 4,000 messages sent to us today will never be heard. Mr. Speaker, I also have not yet despaired. Because tonight maybe someone new, maybe even someone in this Congress, who heard this sunset memorial will finally realize that abortion

really does kill a baby, that it hurts mothers more than anyone else, and that nearly 50 million dead children in America is enough. And that America is great enough to find a better way than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Mr. Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are numbered and that all too soon each of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on another day yet to come, may that be the day that we hear the cries of the unborn at last. May that be the day we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect the least of these, our tiny American brothers and sisters, from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

This is a sunset memorial, Mr. Speaker. It is January 22, 2008, in the land of free and the home of the brave.

RIGHT TO LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, it truly is a momentous evening this evening and the entire day here on the March for Life that occurred here on our Nation's capital, and it is a privilege for me to be here as a freshman Member of Congress, hailing from the very cold State of Minnesota, to be able to be here on this floor on this momentous occasion.

We heard so many eloquent speakers, led by TRENT FRANKS, a man who has a great love for people, not just a love for babies, not just a love for women. He has a love for people, and I am so grateful for the wonderful hour that he just led. We have other Members of Congress, Mr. Speaker, who have come down to this Chamber because they are moved by this issue, not just for their love for babies or their love for women or love for men, but they are moved by many factors that go to increase our Nation and the natural resources that are in our Nation.

One of those is Mr. BISHOP who is from Utah's First District, and he would like to speak for a few moments on the floor of Congress.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) leading this discussion.

As I walked past the Supreme Court this evening, remnants of the two groups were protesting this very issue, one dealing with a press conference, the other marching in chants in a way that was really more appropriate to a high school pep rally than to this particular issue.

And I was saddened because this is one of those issues that should never be

simplified into simply chants or slogans or sound bites because this issue is one that deals with the soul of this particular country. For when we have a cavalier attitude about life at the beginning of the cycle, we tend to develop a cavalier attitude about life at the end of the cycle. And then for those areas in between, we tend to look at life not in terms of its sanctity but in its quality of life.

I firmly believe that man is both perfectable and savable. But we are perfectable and savable not in the ease in which we make our lives or the material possessions which we can accumulate, but in our relationships with others and our development of our families.

I appreciate being able to add my voice to this particular discussion, and I appreciate the representative from Arizona, as well as the gentlewoman from Minnesota, for leading these two hours because this discussion is truly about the very heart of this country and where we go.

Mrs. BACHMANN. I thank Mr. BISHOP so much. The people from the First District of Utah have to be so proud of you, especially on the issue of life.

Mr. Speaker, now I would like to introduce the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) for whom I have a great deal of respect. He has a tremendous story to tell, and I yield to Mr. GARRETT.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for managing this hour as Members come to the floor to speak about this extremely important topic.

I must begin my remarks by thanking everyone who took part earlier today, all those folks who traveled down here to Washington to participate in the annual Right to Life March from all over the country, in bad bus rides and distant flight delays and bumpy car rides. I am grateful to all the marchers who came from the great State of New Jersey. Particularly, I would like to recognize the students from Pope John High School and also the kids from Veritas Christian Academy located in Sparta, as well as some of the parishioners who came down from Our Lady of Fatima in Vernon, St. Jude's Church in Blirstown, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Stillwater, and the folks from Lafayette Federated Church from Lafayette.

I didn't include everyone, but the list would go on and on with all of the people from the great State of New Jersey, people concerned and taking part to make sure that their voice was heard.

Earlier today I had the opportunity, and I would say the honor of speaking to the thousands of marchers who came out. They braved the freezing wind and the rain that was coming on as well. As I had a chance to talk to them, I told them that they, along with Members of Congress, were probably experiencing mixed emotions at the time, similar to the emotions I was experiencing.

Think about it, on the one hand, we are immensely encouraged by what we see. We are encouraged that so many people have gathered here in Washington, DC to mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision. We draw comfort from that fact. We are encouraged that our Nation has not forgotten that tragic death even 35 years later. We are encouraged that we can stand firm in reminding our fellow citizens that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. And most importantly of all, is the right to life.

Finally, we are encouraged that in many cases, our efforts have been rewarded. For instance, the number of abortions that are performed annually has actually dropped down back to levels not seen since the 1970s. Still, despite those signs of encouragement, our hearts are still heavy with sadness and that is because we mourn the millions of babies who have been mercilessly killed before they can even take their first single breath. And we grieve for the mothers and fathers who suffer from the emotional pain of having to have gone through an abortion.

We lament the fact of a continuing decline of morality, civility, and respect for human dignity and worth. For me and my constituents in New Jersey, I am particularly disheartened by a study that was released just last week that showed that our home State, the so-called Garden State, has the second highest abortion rate in the Nation.

It is in moments like these that we must turn our gaze upward and remember the One, the One who created life is also the One who governs the universe. He commands us to "run and not be weary, to walk and not faint."

And so today, we ultimately find encouragement in knowing that the battle is not over. The battle is not ours alone, and the might of right is on our side.

So we will keep working to increase the number of States that have substantive parental involvement laws, thereby protecting teens from the abortion propaganda. We will continue to prohibit partial-birth abortions and fight that in other States as well. And we will show by example how to value life.

Finally, some day I pray that we will experience a January 22 free of these mixed emotions. And instead, we will be able to celebrate a renewed culture of life in this entire Nation.

We elected officials come to the floor to remember the weakest among us. Yet I know we will succeed not because of who we are, but because of what Americans all across this great Nation are doing on behalf of life.

□ 2045

Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you, Mr. GARRETT. Appreciate your kindness and your words of love and life for those who are our fellow Americans. Thank you, and thank the people of New Jersey for sending you to this great body.

Now we have a man that I've known for a number of years of whom I just have great admiration. His name is Mr. TODD AKIN from Missouri's Second District. I yield to Mr. AKIN from Missouri.

Mr. AKIN. Thank you very much. I'm just so thankful for your willingness to take this special hour and organize things here on the floor of the U.S. Congress, and your leadership. The people of Minnesota are blessed to have you, and I'm just very thankful to be able to be a small part.

But one of the things that those of us who are Members of Congress do, as you can imagine, is that we do give speeches. We talk to different groups of people, young and old, on all kinds of different issues.

But one of the questions that I love to ask, and it's something that we should know the answer to rather quickly, and yet, most Americans don't really have the answer quite on the tips of their tongues, and that would be to ask the question, what is it that has made America such a unique and a special place for all of us to live?

Now, if you live here, sometimes you can take for granted some of the things that we enjoy every day. But America is extremely different.

First of all, there are all these people from other countries that want to come here because they believe that this is the land of opportunity; this is where your dreams can become true.

Aside from that, America has been engaged in a number of huge and colossal wars. We find ourselves as the dominant military power on the planet. And so through these different wars, did we create empires? Did we build kingdoms? The answer is, of course, no. We have named no emperors, no kings. In fact, what we did was we voted to tax our constituents to rebuild our enemies after we had defeated them.

America is a unique and special place. But what is it that makes America so special? Why do all these different people from different nations all come together here for the American Dream? What is it, if you were to define it, if you're looking at it like an onion and you're to say you peel off the outer layers of fireworks and apple pie and the flag and you get to the center of what makes it tick?

One of the words when I ask this question frequently is the word "freedom." But freedom doesn't really describe the core principle or the logic of on which basis America tips. You know, the people in Tiananmen Square, they wanted freedom. They stood up for freedom. They were willing to die for freedom. They were greased underneath the treads of tanks and they gave their lives, but they didn't get freedom.

So what is it that produces the freedom? What is it that makes America what it is? What is the formula?

Well, if I were asked that question, I would cheat a little bit. I would go

back to our first great war when America wrote a statement of what we believe and what we stand for as a people. It is, of course, called the Declaration of Independence. It was the reason why we would dare to challenge the biggest military power in the world. And that second paragraph, the sentence, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these is life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." And then the sentence goes on after "pursuit of happiness," and says, "And governments are instituted among men deriving their just power from the consent of the governed." And it goes on to say, the purpose of the government is essentially to protect these basic rights. What rights? Well, life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

So the engineer in me says, now, let's break this down. How does the formula that defines America work? Well, it's based on these ideas: One, that there is a God; second of all, that that God grants basic fundamental rights to all people; and lastly, the job of civil government is to protect those rights.

Now, if you take a look at that equation then you say, well, what does that mean? Well, first of all, we can take away from that the fact that if you take God out of the equation, you don't have any fundamental rights and the whole American system starts to come unglued.

Second of all, you notice that the rights are not just Americans' rights. These are rights for all human beings. This is a powerful idea. This idea is being exported overseas, and other people are enthused and caught up in the possibility that there is a gracious, loving God that gives fundamental rights to all people.

Another rather straightforward conclusion would be this: that a government that does not protect the most fundamental right, the right of life, is a government that is not doing its job. It is broken. And for those of us in America over these years to have tolerated selling the lives of our unborn down the river of convenience, we have violated the most fundamental and basic logic of what America has always stood for.

Abortion is so un-American. It's something that people weren't paying attention on, and the Court slipped it in on them, and pretty soon people started to wake up and say, Oh, my goodness, this is horrible. And all across America, people are starting now to wake up.

Now, because of the nature of the way that the Court usurped their power and authority and decided to take the power to themselves to create law out of thin air, we have one of the most polarizing issues that has confronted our Nation since the days of slavery. And yet, just as slavery is fundamentally un-American, so, even more so, anything that violates the most fundamental right, the right to life, is con-

trary to everything that Americans have stood for and fought for.

Now, some people are aware of the fact, now that we're engaged in a great war, a war against terrorists, should that surprise us? Well, think about it a little bit. What is it that terrorists believe? Terrorists believe that, hey, it's okay to blow up a few people to make a political statement.

And what do we believe? We believe right to life is a fundamental, God-given right. We are completely on the opposite side of the page of the terrorist. The terrorist is a terrorist. And what does that mean? Well, it means he wants to compel you into doing something because you're so afraid of him. That's not very similar, is it, to what we believe; that God gives people the right to life and then the right to liberty. The right to liberty is to be able to follow your own conscience without being terrorized by some opponent. So it is no big surprise that we fight the terrorists because they are fundamentally un-American. And yet we have terrorists in our own culture called abortionists.

One of the good pieces of news why we are winning this war is because there are not enough heartless doctors being graduated from medical schools. There is a real shortage of abortionists. Who wants to be at the very bottom of the food chain of the medical profession? And what sort of these places do these bottom-of-the-food-chain doctors work in? Places that are really a pit. You find that along with the culture of death go all kinds of other lawbreaking, the not following good sanitary procedures, giving abortions to women who are not actually pregnant, cheating on taxes, all these kinds of things, the misuse of anesthetic so that people die or almost die. All of these things are common practice. And all that information is available for America. And the day is coming when this public discussion will continue and America will say we're tired of abortion because it's so fundamentally un-American. And this, like a bad nightmare, will pass away, and there will be a day, just as there is today, where people say who would ever support slavery. In the future there will be a day when men will say who would ever have supported something so un-American as abortion.

I'm so thankful for the gentlelady for her leadership and for allowing us to have a time to engage in this public discussion, something that's not going to be done by political tricks, but by the conscience of the American public being raised to the point where they say, No more. The bad dream is over. We are going to once again honor what Americans have always stood for, the God-given right to life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

God bless you.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Thank you, Mr. AKIN. It was a delight to be able to hear you speak, Mr. AKIN. I know the people of Missouri's Second are hon-

ored that you are their Member of Congress. That was certainly a heartfelt emotion that you shared with us at the microphone, and I thank you for bringing what for many Americans is the pivotal watershed issue of our day, and I thank you for speaking so eloquently to that.

We have next before us this evening during this hour, Mr. JEB HENSARLING from Texas' Fifth District.

Mr. HENSARLING is a very special Member of Congress to me. He is my mentor here and is a giant among men in many ways. He's a giant in my eyes, and a giant I know for his wife, a giant for his two children.

He lives the words that he speaks on a daily basis. There is no greater testimony that any man or any woman could ever have is the testimony of their life, and that, Mr. HENSARLING, he knows very well.

And so with that, I yield to Mr. JEB HENSARLING of Texas' Fifth District.

Mr. HENSARLING. I certainly thank the gentlelady for yielding. I thank her for those kind words. And I must admit, at 5'6", I'm rarely referred to as a giant, but I certainly take it as a great compliment.

The gentlelady from Minnesota has done great work in this body. I'm honored to serve with her, and I hope her constituents are very proud of the work that she has done. She has been a leader on so many issues from day one, and I thank her especially on probably the most fundamental question we have in American society today, for helping lead this Special Order today on the whole question of life.

Mr. Speaker, I need not tell you that millions of people all across America are reflecting upon that Supreme Court decision of decades ago, *Roe v. Wade*. Many Americans are celebrating. Many others are mourning. I am mourning. I mourn that decision.

I'm not naive. I know this question represents one of the great political fault lines in America today, and I know many of my countrymen feel quite differently than I do. But I just believe in my heart, I believe in my head, that there is no more fundamental right that we have than the right to life. And it is enshrined in our very founding documents that we were created. Our creator brought us into this world with certain unalienable rights, including the right to life.

Now, again, Mr. Speaker, I can come to no other conclusion in my head, in my heart, than but life begins at conception. And I don't understand my countrymen who come to different conclusions. I don't hate these people. I don't disparage them. But I have great sadness about what has occurred because of their beliefs; that millions of our countrymen are not here today to take that first breath, to take that first walk, to go into that first dance recital, to hit that first baseball, to put together that first two plus two equals four, I did it daddy. Millions and millions of our fellow countrymen will

never experience that moment because of what I believe to be a very wrong-headed and a very unconstitutional decision made many, many years ago.

And so Mr. Speaker, a battle continues in this great body as a battle continues all across our land. And it's not just a battle to change laws. It is a battle to change the hearts and minds of our countrymen. And again, it's something that I take as an article of faith. But Mr. Speaker, if there's any parent in this body who has seen that sonogram when your baby is just weeks old, to see that beating heart, to see those little fingers, to see those little toes, and know that you have this great privilege that God Almighty has entrusted you with this gift to nurture this life, how you see that and turn your back on it is beyond me, is absolutely beyond me.

□ 2100

And so, Mr. Speaker, there have been others who have come here tonight who are far more eloquent than am I.

But, Mr. Speaker, I just want to, one, thank all of the fellow members of the Republican Study Committee that I have the great honor of chairing in this institution, really the conservative caucus in this House. I want to thank them for raising their voice on the single most important issue we face as a society, and that is the definition of the right to life. I want to thank them for coming to this body to do this.

And Mr. Speaker, I believe that I have a lot of blessings in life. I am not sure I will ever have a greater privilege than serving in the United States House. I enjoy coming to the floor of this institution and being able to talk about my beliefs and my vision for this great Republic.

Like some of us, we have the opportunity to occasionally meet with the President of the United States and tell the most powerful man in the world what our views are. We have opportunities to salute people who deserve recognition. We have all kinds of opportunities that give us a lot of self-satisfaction.

But no matter how many speeches I give on the House floor, no matter how many opportunities I have to meet with the President in the Oval Office, Mr. Speaker, those opportunities pale, absolutely pale in comparison to the opportunity that I have each week to fly home to Dallas, Texas, and have my 5-year-old daughter and my 4-year-old son run into my arms saying, "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy. We missed you."

And it's just one more reminder, Mr. Speaker, of how critical and how precious human life is, and it transcends all of the other debates that we have in this institution.

And so, again, I want to thank all of my fellow members of the Republican Study Committee. I want to thank the gentlelady from Minnesota adding her leadership and her eloquent voice here tonight. I wish I knew what I could say to reach out to my fellow citizens and

try to convince them to treasure human life and to understand how precious it is.

And often when we hear in the debate in this institution that we ought to do it for the least of these, truly, truly unborn life is the least of these. Let us recognize it. Let us hold it precious. And let us live up to our constitutional responsibilities, and let us live up to our responsibilities from the Creator and grant our fellow citizens that precious right to life.

And so the battle goes on, Mr. Speaker. There has been some progress. There are fewer abortions in the land today than there was previously.

So I continue to be optimistic. I could not serve in this body unless I was an optimist. There is much work to be done. But I see a day, it may not be in my life, Mr. Speaker, but maybe in the life of my children, maybe in the life of my grandchildren, should I be blessed with any, that one day all Americans will somehow lock arms and lock hearts and decide that they will protect and defend that unalienable right to life; and I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Ms. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. HENSARLING from Texas' Fifth District. He has confirmed once again to me, Mr. Speaker, that not only is he a giant among men here in this body, but he is a gentle giant, and those are the greatest of all.

I think I have seen a tenderness here this evening, a softness and an eloquence that he speaks, the foundational nature of the issue that we are grappling tonight. There is a sweet sorrow, if you will, regarding this subject because we are talking about something that is dealing with the foundational nature of this country and yet of all humanity, and that is life and what we will do with life.

And I jotted down just a few words before I came up to manage this hour. And I wrote down that every generation, Mr. Speaker, seems to grapple with an issue that transcends all others. That issue for 31 years has been whether government will protect from destruction life, innocent human life.

Our American landscape has changed so dramatically over these last 31 years. I was in high school when the Roe v. Wade decision came down. I hate to admit I was so ignorant when I was a junior in high school, I didn't even know what abortion meant. I didn't even know what it was. What innocence that time was in the early seventies here in the United States.

In that time, Mr. Speaker, we have lost 50 million fellow Americans, and now we've lost the children, some of whom those 50 million would have borne. There are 50 million women whose bodies were violated by the horrific violence that we call here in this chamber abortion. There are 50 million men who have lost out on the tremendous privilege and joy of fatherhood, and our Nation today is poorer because we're missing, Mr. Speaker, 50 million fellow Americans, so sadly.

An inordinate number of these 50 million Americans are children of color. We needed those children of color in our Nation. We needed those African American babies, those Latino babies, those Asian babies. We need them, Mr. Speaker, in our Nation.

And we mourn together the loss of these priceless treasures that would have woven a beautiful tapestry of humanity even here in our midst. Yes, we mourn with a great sadness, but we also rejoice, and we also take great joy in the fact that today, even now, we're making a down payment because today is a new day.

It's a new day for a future of change, and it's my hope and my prayer that it is today, Mr. Speaker, that the words that are spoken on this floor would captivate the attention of young women and young men across our Nation, young people who may have had the chance to turn this show this evening on television, who would choose to respect their bodies and would choose to respect their sexuality and choose to respect their fertility because fertility is a gift. It's not a given. It's a gift.

Ask those people who can't have children. Ask women with love who would love to bear a child but can't, young people who will choose to be givers in this Nation, givers to one another in love, givers to themselves, givers to our Nation and givers to the next generation of Americans.

Today, earlier, I had the great privilege of being in my home State of Minnesota. I went up to the steps of our State capitol. Thousands of Minnesotans had gathered. You think it's cold in Washington, DC? There is nothing like a March For Life rally in the State of Minnesota. It was sub-zero. I wasn't wearing boots. I had a wool overcoat on, and in a moment, my feet were tingling, freezing cold. There were thousands that were there that had braved sub-zero freezing temperatures, holding signs, from cities across the State of Minnesota because they wanted to be there to choose life, Mr. Speaker, and march for the greatest gift that any of us have ever had, the gift of life.

I want to take these few minutes right now to thank the Americans and the people across the globe who have chosen to adopt children. There is no such thing in this country as an unwanted child. There is no such thing. There is a line a mile long of men and women who would give anything tonight to adopt a child. Yes, even the less than a perfect child there's a mile long group of people who would say me, let me, just like Mother Theresa of India who said give them to me and I will take these children.

Thank you to those who have chosen to give life, and whether you kept that child or blessed another family with a child, thank you for choosing life tonight.

I want to thank parents who have chosen to be foster parents, who have taken children in less than ideal situations, or parents that couldn't cope

with a child who was difficult. I thank the foster parents who have opened your hearts, opened your arms, opened your homes, who've inconvenienced yourselves, but yet, you have chosen a better way, to give life in a different sort of way to children in foster homes.

I also want to thank the women who have chosen life and the parents who have encouraged their young daughters or their sons to be supportive of women in a situation where they didn't know if they would choose life or if they would choose to take life. I thank the parents.

It's easy when your child is suffering with an unplanned pregnancy to say it's okay, I'll support you, I'll take you to that abortion clinic, I will pay for that abortion. But they don't always recognize that there is a price that that young woman will pay for the rest of her life in her emotion because her arms will be forever empty, and she'll know that there is a baby that could have been hers and yet was not, or a young man who knows he could have been a father to that baby.

Parents, think again. Taking the easy way isn't always the easy way, Mr. Speaker, and for boyfriends who just heard the news that their girlfriend is pregnant, oh, my gosh, of course I will pay for the abortion you say, let's do that. You don't need this; I don't need this. We've got a whole life in front of us. Who needs this? We can do this. I will borrow the money from my parents, the boyfriend might say, Mr. Speaker, or yet he might say I'll drop you if you don't have this abortion. I'll leave you. I'll walk out on you.

There's another way. There's another choice. There's a choice called life, and it may be inconvenient and it may be embarrassing and it may be expensive, and yes, it will change your life and there may be pain, but there will be joy when you hear that first cry, when you hold that hand that literally covers your finger. And when you look in those eyes and you stroke that silky hair, there is nothing like that baby that you will see, and it will change your life as a young man. It will change your life as a young woman.

That baby has the power to change America. Every baby has the power to change this country. They are America's greatest natural resource.

I thank my parents, David and Jean, who gave me life. I thank my husband who stood by me with our five babies and who stood by me when we lost a baby. I thank you for standing by me when we didn't know if we could go on anymore, and I thank you for stepping up to the plate, for being willing to bring 23 foster children into our home so we could offer an alternative for those children and hopefully give them a down payment on a future and on a hope.

These remarks that we gave here tonight are not about condemning anyone. Who could? Who could? I couldn't condemn anyone. Who could? But it's

about lifting up people. We're here to lift up people. These remarks tonight weren't given to judge anyone. Who could? We're here to heal and offer a healing alternative.

That's why recently I introduced a bill, and it's a bipartisan bill. Democrats are on this bill. Republicans are on this bill. This is not partisan. This is about life, and this is about humanity and choosing the best that are among us, and in the Positive Alternatives Act, we just say something very simply. It says that today there are tax dollars that go to Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortion in the United States. Tax dollars go to Planned Parenthood.

There are not tax dollars that go to life care centers in this country, and we want to change that. We want to level the playing field.

□ 2115

And we want to give a positive alternative all across this great country so that there is a chance for men and women to say, let me think about this. Maybe I don't want to choose death. Maybe I want to choose something else. Maybe there's someone out there who can help me through a difficult time, who could help me with my medical needs, who could help me to get a job, who could help me get some education, who could help me get clothes on my back, who could help me if I want to keep this baby, who could help me if I want to give this baby to a family who maybe doesn't have a baby. It's just common decency to allow for an alternative that leads to life and not lead to guilt and to death, and perhaps remorse that even a lifetime could never erase.

We are such a great country, Mr. Speaker. I know you feel that way, I know you do. And we're a blessed country. Let's choose life. Let's choose the better way. It's the American way.

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in this hour to speak for the millions of innocent voices that have been silenced due to the passage of Roe v. Wade on this day, 35 years ago.

Since the passage of Roe v. Wade, the National Right to Life estimates that nearly 50 million lives have been lost. This number is staggering.

What do the deaths of 50 million children, say about the state of our Nation? It says that the Declaration of Independence is no longer absolute, as its "unalienable" right to life only applies when it is convenient. It says that Congress can make a Federal crime out of roosters crossing State lines, but when a defenseless child is taken across state lines to have an abortion, it is merely a "right"—a choice being exercised. It says that seven unelected Supreme Court justices ignored the separation of powers, and appointed themselves as a superior legislature in order to decide the abortion issue.

But what is the good news? The good news is that citizens who believe that the Constitution protects life in all its seasons have worked to educate the public about abortion and the biological development of the unborn child, as

well as to provide support and options for women when they need it the most. As a result, abortion numbers continue to drop from a high of over 1.6 million in 1990 to 1.2 million in 2005—proving that when given the right options and the whole truth about abortion, many women will choose life.

However, even as the pro-life movement continues to have an impact all over the United States, science has opened other doors that threaten the sanctity of life in the United States. Mass production of cloned embryos to be destroyed in research promotes the same principle as abortion—that human life only matters when it is chosen to matter. We must continue to be vigilant in protecting human life at its creation—whether in the womb or in the lab.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members in this body may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and January 23, 2008.

Mr. WATT (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel delays.

Mr. SHERMAN (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and January 23, 2008.

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and January 23, 2008.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and January 23, 2008.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons due to family matters.

Mr. LUCAS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of family illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. YARMUTH, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, for January 23, 2008.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, for January 29, 2008.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, for January 29, 2008.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, for January 29, 2008.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, for today and January 23.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, January 23.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, January 23.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 23, 2008, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5065. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Mandipropamid; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2007-0461; FRL-8346-6] received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5066. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Acetamidrid; Pesticide Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2006-0733; FRL-8348-1] received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5067. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Payment Withholding — Deletion of Duplicative Text [DFARS Case 2007-D010] (RIN: 0750-AF76) received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5068. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Trade Agreements — New Thresholds [DFARS Case 2007-D023] (RIN: 0750-AF89) received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5069. A letter from the Attorney, Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Loan Guarantees for Projects That Employ Innovative Technologies (RIN: 1901-AB21) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5070. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Nevada; Washoe County 8-Hour Ozone Maintenance Plan [EPA-R09-OAR-2007-1079; FRL-8509-2] received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5071. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; Arizona; San Manuel Sulfur Dioxide State Implementation Plan and Request for Redesignation to Attainment [EPA-R09-OAR-2006-0214; FRL-8514-7] received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5072. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Missouri; Clean Air Mercury Rule [EPA-R07-OAR-2007-0943; FRL-8517-7] received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5073. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York; Clean Air Interstate Rule [EPA-R02-OAR-2007-0913; FRL-8514-9] received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5074. A letter from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; Revisions to Emission Reduction Market System [EPA-R05-OAR-2007-0183; FRL-8514-5] received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5075. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Commercial Item Determinations [DFARS Case 2007-D005] (RIN: 0750-AF78) received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5076. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Closeout of Contract Files [DFARS Case 2006-D045] (RIN: 0750-AF61) received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5077. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Combating Trafficking in Persons [DFARS Case 2004-D017] (RIN: 0750-AF11) received January 15, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5078. A letter from the Deputy Director of Civil Works, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Reissuance of Nationwide Permits [ZRN 0710-ZA02] received December 20, 2007, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5079. A letter from the Regulations Officer, FHWA, Department of Transportation,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Temporary Traffic Control Devices [FHWA Docket No. FHWA-2006-25203] (RIN: 2125-AF10) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5080. A letter from the FMCSA Regulatory Ombudsman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Technical Amendments to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (RIN: 2126-AB13) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5081. A letter from the FMCSA Regulatory Ombudsman, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Penalties Adjustments (RIN: 2126-AB12) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5082. A letter from the Director of Regulations, Office of Pipeline Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pipeline Safety: Applicability of Public Awareness Regulations to Certain Gas Distribution Operators [Docket ID PHMSA-2003-15852] (RIN: 2137-AE17) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5083. A letter from the Regulations Officer, FHWA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Standards for Traffic Control Devices; the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways; Maintaining Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity [FHWA Docket No. FHWA-2003-15149] (RIN: 2125-AE98) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5084. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Revisions to the List of Hazardous Substances and Reportable Quantities [Docket No. PHMSA-2006-28711] (HM-145N) (RIN: 2137-AE24) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5085. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330-200 and -300 Series Airplanes, and Model A340-200 and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28925; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-123-AD; Amendment 39-15248; AD 2007-23-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5086. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F.28 Mark 0700 and 0100 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-29064; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-128-AD; Amendment 39-15249; AD 2007-23-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5087. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC-8-102, -103, -106, -201, -202, -301, -311, and -315 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-29066; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-147-AD; Amendment 39-15250; AD 2007-23-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5088. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness

Directives; Airbus Model A310 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28922; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-132-AD; Amendment 39-15225; AD 2007-21-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5089. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB 2000 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-29171; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-154-AD; Amendment 39-15251; AD 2007-23-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5090. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC-8-400 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-29235; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-232-AD; Amendment 39-15245; AD 2007-22-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5091. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company (GE) CF6-80C2D1F Turbofan Engines [Docket No. FAA-2007-28319; Directorate Identifier 2007-NE-27-AD; Amendment 39-15243; AD 2007-22-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5092. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC-8-102, -103, -106, -201, -202, -301, -311, and -315 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28371; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-040-AD; Amendment 39-15234; AD 2007-21-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5093. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; EADS SOCATA Model TBM 700 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28645; Directorate Identifier 2007-CE-059-AD; Amendment 39-15228; AD 2007-21-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5094. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Hawker Beechcraft Model Hawker 800XP Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28810; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-104-AD; Amendment 39-15226; AD 2007-21-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5095. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300-600 Series Airplanes; and Model A310 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28663; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-223-AD; Amendment 39-15221; AD 2007-21-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5096. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A310 Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-27925; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-183-AD; Amendment 39-15232; AD 2007-21-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5097. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-135BJ Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28909; Directorate Identifier 2007-NM-135-AD; Amendment 39-15230; AD 2007-21-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5098. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 707 Airplanes and Model 720 and 720B Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2007-28811; Directorate Identifier 2006-NM-246-AD; Amendment 39-15233; AD 2007-21-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5099. A letter from the Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 and 767 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-21701; Directorate Identifier 2005-NM-086-AD; Amendment 39-15231; AD 2007-21-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 14, 2008, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. OBERSTAR: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. House Resolution 866. A resolution honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records (Rept. 110-513). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. CONYERS: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3992. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide grants for the improved mental health treatment and services provided to offenders with mental illnesses, and for other purposes (Rept. 110-514). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HERGER:

H.R. 5085. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand expensing for small business; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 5086. A bill to require the Attorney General to issue guidelines delineating when to enter into deferred prosecution agreements, to require judicial sanction of deferred prosecution agreements, and to provide for Federal monitors to oversee deferred prosecution agreements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MITCHELL (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 5087. A bill to prevent Members of Congress from receiving the automatic pay

adjustment scheduled to take effect in 2009; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JORDAN:

H.R. 5088. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain laundry work surfaces; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BARROW:

H.R. 5089. A bill to reform the veterans' disability determination process by requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay disability compensation to certain veterans based on the concurring diagnosis of two physicians; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BARROW:

H.R. 5090. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to permit a family member of a wounded veteran to take leave under such Act after a lesser period of service with an employer; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana:

H.R. 5091. A bill to prevent Members of Congress from receiving the automatic pay adjustment scheduled to take effect in 2009; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 5092. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic or modacrylic staple fibers, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 5093. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic or modacrylic filament tow; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 5094. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on acrylic or modacrylic staple fibers, carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 5095. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on filament tow of rayon; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 5096. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain staple fibers of viscose rayon, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 5097. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain staple fibers of viscose rayon, carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COBLE:

H.R. 5098. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on staple fibers of viscose rayon, not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES:

H.R. 5099. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish additional goals for airport master plans; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 5100. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain semi-manufactured forms of gold; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself and Mr. POE):

H. Res. 934. A resolution congratulating the city of Baytown, Texas, on its 60th anniversary; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 211: Mr. BUCHANAN.
 H.R. 368: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 551: Mrs. LOWEY.
 H.R. 618: Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. LATHAM.
 H.R. 619: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
 H.R. 620: Mr. WATT.
 H.R. 676: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
 H.R. 821: Mr. REYNOLDS and Mr. SESTAK.
 H.R. 822: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 861: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
 H.R. 871: Mr. PASCARELL.
 H.R. 992: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
 H.R. 1032: Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Ms. LEE.
 H.R. 1063: Mr. GRAVES.
 H.R. 1110: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, and Mr. ISSA.
 H.R. 1280: Ms. TSONGAS.
 H.R. 1390: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
 H.R. 1553: Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. GILCHREST.
 H.R. 1621: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota and Mr. EMANUEL.
 H.R. 1667: Mr. MCNERNEY.
 H.R. 1691: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 1747: Mr. MARKEY.
 H.R. 1843: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, and Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia.
 H.R. 1912: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 1914: Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.
 H.R. 1961: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 1964: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
 H.R. 1968: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 2032: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 2052: Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN and Mr. BERMAN.
 H.R. 2063: Mr. LAMPSON and Ms. HOOLEY.
 H.R. 2091: Mr. CASTLE and Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 2092: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
 H.R. 2138: Ms. FALLIN and Mr. WALSH of New York.
 H.R. 2164: Mr. MCCARTHY of California and Mr. OBERSTAR.
 H.R. 2169: Mr. TOWNS and Ms. TSONGAS.
 H.R. 2255: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama.
 H.R. 2266: Mr. ANDREWS and Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 2287: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky and Mr. ALEXANDER.
 H.R. 2320: Mr. BILBRAY.
 H.R. 2370: Mr. HINOJOSA.
 H.R. 2548: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 2676: Mrs. MALONEY of New York and Mrs. SCHMIDT.
 H.R. 2702: Mr. ANDREWS.
 H.R. 2712: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. BUYER.
 H.R. 2834: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.

H.R. 2926: Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 2933: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. SNYDER.

H.R. 2965: Mr. VAN HOLLEN and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 3010: Mr. ARCURI and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 3014: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 3042: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 3098: Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas.

H.R. 3119: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 3168: Mr. KLEIN of Florida.

H.R. 3175: Mr. HINOJOSA.

H.R. 3326: Ms. MATSUI and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.

H.R. 3329: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H.R. 3430: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 3481: Mr. SERRANO.

H.R. 3533: Mr. JEFFERSON.

H.R. 3598: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 3646: Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 3663: Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MITCHELL, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 3689: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 3700: Mr. JEFFERSON.

H.R. 3819: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 3934: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 3955: Mr. WAMP.

H.R. 4057: Mr. ALEXANDER.

H.R. 4088: Mr. SESTAK.

H.R. 4097: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. REYES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 4129: Ms. DEGETTE and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 4157: Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 4236: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, and Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 4296: Mr. ALTMIRE.

H.R. 4318: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 4335: Mr. SESTAK, Mr.

RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SUTTON, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 4652: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4807: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 4841: Mr. BACA and Mr. COLE of Oklahoma.

H.R. 4936: Mr. DEFazio, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. HARE.

H.R. 4959: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. FARR, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. HIRONO.

H.R. 4987: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. GOODE, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. SALI, Mr. GRAVES, Ms. FOXX, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. COBLE, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 4995: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DREIER, Mr. KELLER, and Mr. KIRK.

H.R. 5036: Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. GIFFORDS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. BOYD of Florida.

H.R. 5056: Mr. CONYERS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. STARK.

H.R. 5058: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.J. Res. 64: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. WELCH of Vermont, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.J. Res. 70: Mr. RADANOVICH.

H.J. Res. 76: Ms. NORTON, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H. Con. Res. 32: Mr. SHAYS and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H. Con. Res. 198: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H. Con. Res. 223: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 232: Mr. FEENEY.

H. Con. Res. 263: Mr. BONNER, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. JORDAN, of Ohio, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. PEARCE.

H. Con. Res. 273: Mr. BILBRAY.

H. Con. Res. 280: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SIREs, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Res. 102: Mr. ROYCE.

H. Res. 532: Mr. McCAUL of Texas.

H. Res. 543: Mr. GILCHREST and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H. Res. 700: Mr. HILL and Mr. TOWNS.

H. Res. 758: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 795: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H. Res. 821: Mr. JONES of North Carolina.

H. Res. 838: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. JORDAN, of Ohio Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. WALSH of New York.

H. Res. 854: Mr. McHUGH.

H. Res. 858: Mr. HOLT, Mr. COHEN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SESTAK, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. BORDALLO.

H. Res. 886: Mr. POE.

H. Res. 889: Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H. Res. 908: Ms. KILPATRICK.

H. Res. 916: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. TIBERI, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PATRICK MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WOLF, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LATTI, and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 917: Mr. KUHLE of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS.

H. Res. 932: Ms. KILPATRICK and Mr. SNYDER.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 3120: Mr. FEENEY.